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21ST CENTURY CDS

I was hoping that some media outlet would be clever enough to present a comprehensive list of the best hard rock CDs of the last few years. **Hit Parader** did just that with your **Top 100 CDs of the 21st Century** issue. It was a well thought-out, and equally well-presented feature that was both insightful and entertaining. It made me aware of many releases that I may have otherwise overlooked, while at the same time confirming my beliefs about the quality of certain key albums. Keep up the good work.

Larry
Denton, TX

I'm sure none of us will ever know what kind of voodoo curse the members of Slipknot hold over the entire **Hit Parader** staff. That must be it... otherwise how could anyone possibly explain your devout dedication to that band? You've placed them on countless covers over the last five years, and now you name their **Subliminal Verses** as the top album of the 21st Century. If that is true than heavy metal is in far more peril than I may have originally imagined.

Quincy
Mobile, AL

Thank you for including such bands as Lamb of God, Mastodon and Shadows Fall in your recent **Top 100 CDs of the 21st Century** edition. They are among my favorite bands, and it's nice to know that a lot of other people recognize them as outstanding groups who are making some great music.

Tom
Delta, UT

Can you guys get any more mainstream? I mean you want to make yourselves out to be some sort of "bible" for heavy metal, but all you're really feeding your listeners is the same crap that the major labels are feeding you. The really great heavy metal bands (and the really great CDs) of the 21st Century have mostly been released on tiny, independent labels that you probably never even listen to. You're too busy getting off on all the things that have been sanitized and whitewashed enough for the major labels to release to the masses.

Angry Al
Philadelphia, PA

'70s SPECIAL

I've got a question for you. While I thoroughly enjoyed your **Salute to the '70s** issue, I thought you did a major disservice to one of that decade's premier bands... Uriah Heep. Bands like Zeppelin and Purple always get their due credit as major forces on the history of hard rock. But Heep is generally overlooked... and you com-



SLIPKNOT

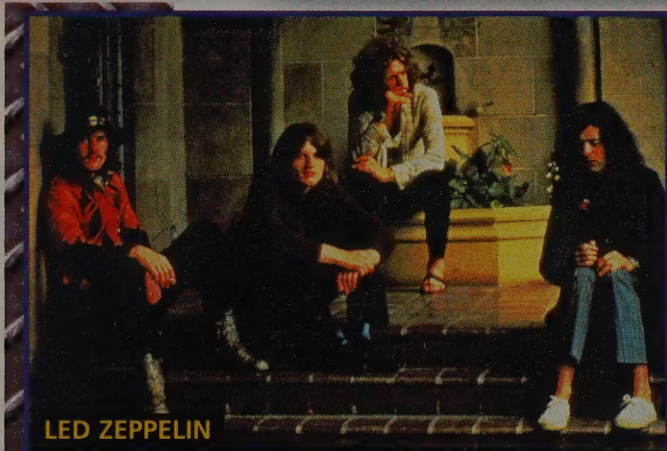
LAMB OF GOD



pounded their "second rate" perception by totally avoiding mention of them in your issue. Their bold use of keyboards and guitars helped pioneer a certain heavy metal style, and that should never be forgotten.

Ian
New York City

Isn't it interesting that well into the 21st Century the two biggest stories in hard rock center around the return of two '70s favorites... Van Halen and Led Zeppelin? I'm not sure what that says about the current state of rock and roll... or the current state of rock and roll fans. But the fact is that having two of hard rock's most legendary groups back in the spotlight (however briefly) will hopefully spur a new generation of groups



to ply their craft with the same degree of inspiration and perspiration that first made VH and Zep superstars.
Brandy
Santa Monica, CA

I thought your **Hit Parader Salutes the '70s** issue was very interesting. I learned a lot about bands I may have heard of before—like Grand Funk, UFO, Montrose and Mountain—but really didn't know that much about. Since reading the issue I've downloaded some of their music and found it to be really good. I still prefer music by cur-

rent bands like Avenged Sevenfold and Atreyu, but I can definitely hear how some of this stuff had a pronounced impact on hard rock music.
Ken
Portland, OR

Hey, don't you think it's time that you folks at **Hit Parader** got your heads out of your butts and realized that we're not living in the



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Metal Mail

Heavy metal needs a new supergroup. If you look back over the form's long history, there have always been bands that have stood head-and-shoulders above the rest— either in an artistic or commercial capacity. In the '70s it was Zeppelin and Sabbath. In the '80s it was Metallica and Motley Crue. In The '90s it was



DOWN

past? Over the last year you've had issues dedicated to the '70s, the '80s and the '90s. I know you also put out a **Top 100 CDs of the 21st Century** issue, but that doesn't make up for the amount of space you've wasted on old, forgotten groups. There is so much good music happening these days. Let's celebrate that instead of dredging up the forgotten heroes of yesteryear... okay? L.P.

Burlington, VT

STATE OF METAL

I saw all the major summer tours— *Ozzfest*, *Family Values*, *Warped* etc.— and I think that there's a lot of great music out there. I know that some people sense that hard rock isn't as strong today as it may have been 10 or 15 years ago, but I believe that they're wrong.

Steven
Utica, NY

Guns N' Roses and Nirvana. But who do we have today who can stand up to any of those groups?

Mike
Boise, ID

I am the mother of a 16 year old boy who has recently gotten into heavy metal music. He plays it all day and all night... often at deafening volumes. I don't mind as much when he uses his i-Pod and earphones. But often he chooses to blast it through his stereo speakers, and that makes our home shake to its foundation. I am very worried about his hearing... as well as the hearing of all young people who choose to listen to this kind of music.

Mary
Lincoln, NE

Love the new albums from 3 Inches of Blood, Down, A7X, Nightwish and Drowning Pool. Just wanted my fellow hard rockers to know about 'em. Thanks Bruno
Bronx, NY



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Metal happenings

rants, raves,
news & gossip

LED ZEPPELIN: Zep-mania continues to sweep across the face of Planet Earth in the wake of the band's historic London performance. The BIG question, of course, is whether or not Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones and Jason Bonham want to expand their efforts and play more select dates in major markets around the world—in much the same fashion as Cream did back in 2005/06. "There has been some talk of that," an inside source revealed. "They did put in a lot of hard work to make the London benefit show so spectacular. But I don't know if either Jimmy or Robert want to make more of it than there already has been."



IRON MAIDEN: Bruce Dickinson has always considered himself something of a Renaissance Man. A gifted author, a world-class fencer, a noted English radio host, and a fully accredited commercial airline pilot, Iron Maiden's diminutive vocalist has now taken on the responsibility of piloting the group's huge 757 aircraft (which holds all of their stage props and gear in addition to the band and 60 person crew) during their current world tour. "This allows me to combine two of my greatest passions—music and flying," Dickinson said. "It was pretty complex to get this together, but it's working out quite well."

MANSON: Marilyn Manson recently drew the interest of the New York City gossip crowd when early one morning he strolled quietly and quickly through security at a local airport (heading towards a flight to Los Angeles) without a bag in sight. While that was far from noteworthy, the fact that his waifish girlfriend, actress Evan Rachel Wood, was forced to walk behind him, and schlep what appeared to be both her bags and his through the checkpoint made those who witnessed the event stand up and take notice. "She looked like she was a pack mule," said an amused observer. "And he didn't seem like he could have cared less."

SLIPKNOT: It appears as if the members of Slipknot are off to a running start towards the completion of their next album. With vocalist Corey Taylor and drummer Joey Jordison having spent some time together last summer at Ozzfest (while Taylor fronted Stone Sour and Jordison served as 'special guest' for Korn), a number of solid creative ideas

BREAKING NEWS

BY LOU O'NEIL JR

ON DEADLINE SO MUCH TO REPORT... so little space. We have all the inside skinny on the new (and improved?) Van Halen. Scott Weiland not to mention Jonathan Davis and Korn. Still and all, we take a step back now and reminisce as 2007 quickly fades away.

So, with '07 soon to be consigned to history, we glance back at the year and remember the triumphant return of our old pal, John ("Ozzy") Osbourne after all these years with his eclectic release, **Black Rain**. You know, even Ozzy admits that the project was the first time in his career he recorded entirely without drink or drugs. We only hope that Ozzy and the rest of his original mates of Black Sabbath can find a way to all get together, return to the studio and record all-new material. This, your veteran scribbler would definitely love to see happen.

And, even though it's a **2008** story, believe it or not, one of the highlights of '07 must be considered the return of Metallica—touring all around the world, playing with fire and brimstone and the album is still months away. This new Metallica album is one of the most eagerly awaited in years. We hear Hetfield and Co. have really got the goods this time. So Happy New Year, dear readers, may 2008 be terrific for you, your loved ones and the United States of America. Rock on!

SECRET STUFF: That El Lay-based 'A' list couple were at each others' throats like wild wolves. And the Missus was the one going ultra-whack-a-ding-hoy, too! Seems hubby had just put an ugly dent on the brand new baby-blue Bentley and it was more than she could bear. A security guard had to separate the wildcats, it got *that* crazy! You can't make this stuff up.

QUICKIE QUIZ: Last month, we asked for a piece of trivia about Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. The query was simple. What four day job did Keith have before he joined the Stones? Well believe it or not, Keith spent four whole days in the employ of Her Majesty, the Queen, working as a clerk at the Royal Post Office. He didn't like the gig, we guess. This month, name the Southern-most city in America.

NO NAMES PLEEZE: That world famous metal guitarist put new meaning in the words a "shared flight" on Qantas. Seems our hero and the sexy stewardess slipped into the washroom for practically half the Pacific. Now she's threatening to go public and the enigmatic star is frantic! If the dude's better-half finds out, it'll all hit the fan. Please! We can say no more.

ROCK WIRE REPORT: There's a gathering buzz on the Van Halen trek. Of course, it really *is* a new band with "Diamond" Dave back and Wolfgang in. So far, so good. When Eddie V was asked why Wolfgang, a mere 16, was in and veteran Michael Anthony out, Eddie quipped, "DNA!" The absolute key here, of course, is whether the four of them can go into a studio and make it happen like the old days. And yes, while we're waxing about the VH reunion, didn't the aforementioned Anthony show real class when he commented, "I urge our fans to support Eddie's son. He's a great kid so please don't judge him too harshly. I'm sure he'll do fine." Kudos to you, Michael, for being such a gentleman. Anyway, Michael Anthony and the irrepressible Sammy Hagar are going 90 mph right this very moment...

Oops, before we forget, a special Happy Birthday to Lemmy Kilmister which arrives on the day before Saint Nick. The Motorhead madman will be 62 on Christmas Eve... Velvet Revolver's Scott Weiland is absolutely **NOT** ruling out a reformation of the Stone Temple Pilots and even hints he thinks it would be cool. You gotta' know that Dean and Robert DeLeo liked the sound of that. Seems some of the earliest STP stuff was very, Beatlesque, no? At least to our ancient ears... A dude from a classic sci fi tv show of years gone by really beamed himself up there the other week out at a Vegas convention. He kept screaming at the top of his lungs that he was the real captain! Hmmm. Medication needed.

OVER 'N' OUT: It was so cool that Korn didn't even bother to give their eighth studio release a name. Jonathan Davis believes it's their best yet and explains, "It has no boundaries, it has no limits, so why not let our fans call it whatever they want to." We sure would have liked to have been that proverbial fly-on-the-wall during the last run of the *Family Values* Tour. Mix Korn and Stone Sour, throw in a little Corey Taylor and shake vigorously with Davis. Can you imagine the talk that went on in the friendly confines (and safety) of their tour trailers?... Reliable sources insist something "significant" is going on in the camp of AC/DC. The Aussie time zone is 14 hours ahead of Gotham so the deadline pickings were skimpy. We'll have much more on Angus Young and AC/DC right here next issue. Don't miss it.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH: Until then, remember: *Have a safe and joyous Christmas Holiday and here comes rocking 2008.*



METAL MUSINGS

BY MIKE G

were examined. At the same time, percussionist Sean "Clown" Crahan was also exploring some new song concepts. "They're going to use everything they can this time," said a source close to the band. "There were even some ideas left unfinished at the end of the **Subliminal Verses** sessions that might again be examined."

H.I.M.: After 17 years of trying, H.I.M. vocalist Ville Valo finally thinks it's time for his Scandinavian "love metal" unit to break big-time in the United States. The success of the band's new disc, **Venus Doom**, has spurred the charismatic singer to begin focusing on American success... to the possible detriment of his already-strong European following. "That is the risk," Valo said. "If we start spending even more time in America, then fans in Europe will think we're turning against them. They are very sensitive to that. Our goal is to please everyone... if such a thing is even possible."



ATREYU: The members of Atreyu admit that they've been a little confused by the reaction afforded their latest release (and major label debut), **Lead Sails, Paper Anchors**. While some-long time fans have responded very favorably to the commercial-yet-heavy sounds put forth by this So Cal unit, others haven't been quite as kind. "We understand it when people don't like what we do," said vocalist Alex Varkatzas. "Our music isn't easily explained or categorized... and it's not designed to be. That bothers some people. We knew that with a new label we were going to face things that we had never previously encountered. That can be intimidating if you let it... or it can be a lot of fun."

VAN HALEN: So how has it *really* been going backstage on a night-in, night-out basis for the reformed (both figuratively and literally) Van Halen? According to our on-site sources, Eddie and Alex Van Halen have remained "cordial" to David Lee Roth, while generally keeping their distance when not on stage. While everyone knew that this volatile mix of personalities had the chance to go nuclear at any-given-moment, the VH gang held it together surprisingly well. "I don't think they'll ever be best friends," our source said. "But after everything that's happened between them over the years, they're all acting in a highly professional manner."

OZZY: Ozzy Osbourne is the first to admit that he's still on the road, almost six months after his first show in support of his chart-topping disc, **Black Rain**. For a guy who in recent years has been somewhat reticent about extending his time in the spotlight, his current arena tour (with Rob Zombie as opening act) has been something of a revelation. "I honestly didn't know if I could do it," Ozzy said. "But Sharon kept booking more and more shows, so what choice did I have but to go out and play them. It's all gone much better than I would have imagined."



AVENGED SEVENEFOLD: Sometimes the members of A7X feel like they've got a target painted on their backs. Despite all the praise they've received for the adventurous sounds contained on their new disc, **Avenged Sevenfold**, the band still feels the heat of those who think they're just too "radical" for contemporary rock and roll. "Some people love to hate us," said guitarist Zacky Vengeance. "And you know what? That's fine with us. We know that there are a lot of people out there who love us, so we know if we can generate an equally strong reaction from those who don't, that's cool. Love us... hate us... just don't ignore us."

AC/DC: As months turn into years, sometimes it seems as if we're *never* going to hear new music from AC/DC. Apparently the major delay surrounding the band's new recording sessions stems around the health of guitarist Angus Young. While the pint-sized six-string demon feels fine on a day-to-day basis, he's begun to wonder if his 56 year old body can hold up to the grind of a major tour. And, as Angus has always said, there's little reason to record new music if the band isn't ready to tour behind it. "I think that Angus is beginning to feel his age a little bit," said a source close to the band. "Nobody has ever poured more into their show every night than he has, and he'll probably never tour without being able to do everything he wants on stage. It presents a bit of a quandary."

THERION

Formed in Sweden in 1987 by bassist/guitarist/singer/songwriter Christofer Johnsson, Therion started out as a creative Death Metal band that always enjoyed stretching the limits of its sub-genre. Its first four albums added Persian music scales, jazz, industrial and gothic chanting to its Celtic Frost-influenced brew.

Since the 1996 release of **Theli**, though, Therion has been, to my old ears, the #1 Heavy Metal band in the universe. **Theli**'s fusion of metal and opera was stunning, combining liquid keyboards spilling all over the mix, a death/clean vocal avalanche and that classical music male/female choir.



It still did not prepare one for 1997's unbelievable **Vovin**, which added a complete orchestra for strings. Since then, albums such as 2000's **Deggial**, 2001's **Secret Of The Runes**, 2004's **Sirius B** and **Lemuria** and 2007's **Gothic Kabbalah** have kept the orchestral swell alive, the beautiful chorale constant and the metal as heavy as any other band on the planet. Truly, Johnsson and his mates have captured what it means to embody the spirit of what heaviness is supposed to be all about. This is not background music. To fully appreciate its scope and majesty, one should stand in front of the speakers—yes, stand!—and let the sound take you to the furthest extremes of your imagination.

Johnsson is hardly the "rock star" type. "I pretty much lost interest in the guitar in the '90s," he tells *Hit Parader*. "and now it's just another sound in the mix." He considers himself a composer. As far as I'm concerned, he's up there with Bach and Mozart!

If I had to pick which album would be a good starting point for the uninitiated, I might go with **Deggial**. Then get **Vovin**, then **Theli**. Those with adventurous ears should get the box: **Celebrators Of Becoming**, a six-disc mountain of monumental proportions. Of course, oftentimes a musician will tell you to get their current CD because that would be the most accurate reflection of where the band is at. Then you could work your way backwards.

Either way, you will not find a more illustrious band, a more satisfying heavy metal experience, than that which resides within the great Therion!

Metal happenings

BY: AMY SCIARRETTO

ALL-ACCESS: Who's Doing What... and When

Calling all maggots! Are you ready, because **Slipknot** is planning on releasing their fourth album in 2008. The 'Knot certainly looks to be returning to spread their maggotry...Platinum-selling rockers **Mudvayne** have released their first ever, fan-generated album, dubbed **By The People, For The People**, through Epic Records. It consists of live tracks, rarities, demos, and two new songs, as well as a cover of The Police's *King Of Pain*, all of which were interactively chosen by fans in a groundbreaking way of assembling a record. A brand new studio album is planned for 2008, while vocalist Chad Gray and guitarist Greg Tibbitts finish their run with HellYeah...**System Of A Down** are currently on a hiatus, with poufy haired vocalist Serj Tankian enjoying a solo career. But Tankian is not the only one who is using his free time wisely. Drummer and lifelong comic book geek John Dolmayan is indulging in his other passions. The skinsman has entered into an exciting new comic book venture. He has launched Torpedo Comics, an online comic book store at www.torpedocomics.com/. The Internet-only store will boast a whopping 15 million items, ranging from comic books, toys, graphic novels, trade paperbacks, superhero action figures, and other comic book-related memorabilia. Prices will range from bargain basement 99 cents all the way into six-figures for the most valued collectibles. Obviously, this is an all-encompassing site dedicated to the world of comics, so if you're a comic book nerd, then you need to immediately scope out this site... The one and only Evan Seinfeld, former **Biohazard** bassist/vocalist, former star of HBO prison drama *Oz* and current husband of adult film star Tera Patrick, has resurfaced with a new rawk 'n roll band dubbed **The Spyderz**... **Hatebreed** bassist Chris Beattie has crashed the fashion party, launching his own clothing line called Bridgeport Republic, named after his hometown of Bridgeport, CT. Of his new business venture, the bassist says, "Bridgeport Republic is dedicated to



IN THE STUDIO

Legendary Bay Area thrashers **Testament** will return to the metal scene in Spring 2008 with a new label, Nuclear Blast America. "We are very happy that we are signed to one of the best metal labels in the world," says vocalist Chuck Billy, who

is known to use his mic stand to play air guitar while performing. "It's a great feeling that we are in a house that will

not crumble." Guitarist Eric Peterson concurs, saying, "This is going to be our best record to date, and it will be the essence of what **Testament** is. Nuclear Blast is the perfect label for us. They eat, breathe and sleep, metal. I am excited also because a lot of my favorite bands are on Nuclear Blast, giving us the opportunity to be label-mates with them. Finally we are coming home." Expect to have your face thrashed off by new **Testament** in the near future...

reflecting individuality with a universal line of quality apparel which honors and represents an independent yet unified lifestyle rooted in the streets. We plan to inspire a whole new generation and breathe new life into the apparel industry." You can check out the designs at www.myspace.com/bridgeportrepublic and start stocking up on t-shirts. We at **Hit Parader** even own a few, thanks to our friend Beattie, and they are both comfy and stylish...The reunited Cavalera Brothers—that'd b vocalist/guitarist Max and drummer Igor—have announced the name for their new project. It's called **The Cavalera Conspiracy**, and it also features guitarist Mark Rizzo and bassist Joe Duplantier from **Gojira** among the ranks. The band's Roadrunner Records debut will be out in early 2008, and our sources indicate that it sounds like **Sepultura** and **Soufly** of old. Good stuff. We can't wait. Also **Pantera/Down** bassist Rex Brown lends his skills to a track! Sounds like an All-Star extravaganza...Zimmer's Hole, the new band featuring Byron Stroud of **Fear Factory** and **Strapping Young Lad** fame, have signed a record deal with Century Media. The band's debut, **Beware Of The Hole** is due out sometime next spring. But for some sneak peaks, point and click at www.myspace.com/zimmershole...Boston based band **Diecast** are working on their next album for Century Media while trying to find a new bassist...2008 looks to bring new albums from the likes of **Soufly**, **Opeth**, **Dragonforce**, and many others!

MORE MUSINGS

AIRBOURNE

Let's face it. If an when you think about Australian hard rock, that thought process pretty much begins and ends with one band... AC/DC. Yup, the legendary Thunder From Down Under have dominated the world's perspectives regarding Oz Rock for more than three decades. But while they won't come right out and say it (though we *know* that they'd love to) the members of the new Aussie hard rock unit, Airbourne, seem bound-and-determined to radically change the world's perspectives concerning their homeland's rock and roll output. As proven throughout their debut disc, **Runnin' Wild**, vocalist/guitarist Joel O'Keefe, drummer (and brother) Ryan O'Keefe, guitarist David Rhoads and bassist Justin Street appear set on proving to anyone with fully functional eyes and ears that while they're totally smitten with the kind of vintage hard rock sound that Angus and the boys first helped create, there's also something surprisingly fresh brewing on those distant Australian shores.

"Our attitude has always been to make the kind of music that we'd like to hear," Joel said. "And for us that tends to be the kind of big rock and roll sound that you heard a lot back in the '70s and '80s.

Music just seemed to be more exciting back then, and while we're all way too young to have ever experienced that period in rock history for ourselves, we grew up absorbing all we could from the likes of Van Halen, Motorhead, and of course, AC/DC."

With the core of the band being the rock-loving O'Keefe brothers, by the time these two had reached their late teens they had put together the first version of Airbourne and started pumping out the ruff-laden, hook-filled songs like *Too Much, Too Young, Too Fast* and *Stand Up For Rock 'n Roll* that now fill their debut disc. But from that moment on, things didn't happen particularly fast for these guys. More than half-a-decade of toiling in bars, clubs and roadhouses throughout their Island Continent home marked this unit's path of Aussie rock conquest. But finally the years of hard work playing some of the grungiest, grimmest beer-doused hovels in the world began to pay some major dividends. The group's hard-driving rep came to the attention of the likes of Motley Crue and the Rolling Stones, both of whom invited Airbourne to share a stage with them during their Down Under road excursions. That kind of showcase brought the band to the attention of international record labels, who quickly stepped up to the proverbial plate to take a swing at signing Airbourne to a deal.

"We always go on-stage and try to prove a point," Joel said. "And that point is about how GOOD rock and roll is! That's what got us our deal, and I think it's what's going to make people take notice of us. We're not trying to fit in or play the kind of music that may be popular in America or Europe. We're playing rock and roll—they way it's supposed to be played."



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BY DAMON LANCASTER

caught in the act

KORN

It was still before noon—a *ridiculous* time for any gathering of true rockers to begin. Yet the early-arriving crowd of fans at this particular day's version of the Korn's 2007 *Family Values* tour (which also featured the likes of the Deftones, HellYeah and Evanescence) had been slowly gathering since sun-up. A palpable "buzz" seemed to pervade the throng as it impatiently waited for the gates to be opened and a day's worth of music to begin.

As they milled about, the crowd busied themselves with a wide variety of slightly sordid activities. They talked among themselves, they yelled, they imbibed liquid substances from both open bottles and brown paper bags, they purchased band-related knick-knacks from a number of roving vendors strolling among them, and they blasted Korn tunes as loudly and as proudly as they could from their car stereo systems. Of course, different people were playing different songs at the same time, with the resulting din of conflicting sounds, yelps and bellows being enough to bring a look of concern to the faces of the ever-watchful security guards.

"This is the kind of crowd that worries me," one of the middle-aged men-in-blue sighed. "They seem under control, but there's always a sense of tension that's right under the surface. The combination of loud music, too much to drink, and being kept outside for too long is not a combination that makes me happy."

A few hours later, as they sat sequestered far away from this on-going din, the members of Korn remained blissfully oblivious to the commotion that was continuing to build on the far side of their enclave. It wasn't as if vocalist Jonathan Davis, guitarist James "Munky" Shaffer and bassist Fieldy

(joined on this occasion by "special guest" drummer Joey Jordison, on loan from Slipknot) didn't care about the on-going tensions housed within their unsettled follow-

ing, it was just that as show time grew ever-nearer, they had other things on their mind. Indeed, as Korn has toured in support of their latest "untitled" release, they have often been greeted by crowds brimming with love and admiration... but ones which have also seemed a bit surly after being treated like cattle-being-led-to-slaughter by rather abrupt *Family Values* security forces. But such problems did little to dampen the enthusiasm these fans held for their favorite hard rock band.

"I've been to six shows on this tour, and it's been tough outside of a lot of the places," one fan said. "I certainly don't blame the guys in Korn, it's not their fault. But I don't think the people who run these things know how to handle crowds of kids anymore. They just don't have enough big rock shows to keep them in practice. You've got to admit that the fans who show up for a Korn show are a little more rowdy than the ones who normally show up for a basketball game."

Despite the difficulties they may have encountered merely arriving at their rightful place inside the packed house, the fans in attendance were certainly thankful for every ounce of



"There's something about playing in a large hall that nothing else can match. The way the sound bounces off the walls, the way the crowds go crazy, there's just nothing else that can even come close."

effort that Korn put into their 90 minute performance. Drawing heavily from their latest albums, but also prominently featuring material drawn from such historic faves as *Korn* and *Follow The Leader*, the group's explosive set was a textbook example of arena-styled excess melding with carefully calculated metallic mayhem. Indeed, with Davis controlling center stage, and Munky and Fieldy laying down an impenetrable barrage of over-amplified thunder, Korn's show was stylish, heavy and firmly perched on the cutting

edge. Tearing through such crowd-pleasing tunes as *Got The Life*, *Make Me Bad*, *Freak On A Leash*, and their controversial recent hit *Evolution*, the group's performance proved that arena rock is still alive and well— despite the problems some of their fans may have had merely getting into that arena.

"There's something about playing in a large hall that nothing else can match," David said as he cooled off after that night's performance. "The way the sound bounces off the walls, the way the crowds go crazy, there's just nothing else that can even come close. For us, part of the fun of touring is being able to go into those arenas and bring all of our fantasies alive."



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SLIPKNOT AD



metal's new stars

A LIFE ONCE LOST

On **Iron Gag**, Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey metal juggernauts A Life Once Lost have come into their own. No longer can elitist rock critics or snobby metal fans call them "Meshuggah, Jr.," thus calling them a copycat of the Swedish metal giant.

"It feels like it's our natural progression," says bearded and bespectacled vocalist Bob Meadows, who wanted to work with special ed children until he got bitten by the music bug. "There are goals that we set when we write songs and with this record, I wanted to step up and deliver a better performance, and the rest of the guys felt the same way." One of the ways that ALOL stepped up their game on **Iron Gag** was their choice to not work with a producer. Many young bands self-produce their first few records, and are eventually able to afford a producer to tighten things up. But ALOL have always used a producer. That is, until **Iron Gag**. And it turned out to be the best decision the band could have made.

"It wasn't hard at all," Meadows admits. "After we saw how to produce ourselves, we thought, 'Hey, this is easy.' It's like why do bands waste their recording budget on producers, when you really can do it yourself!"

Meadows feels that **Iron Gag** is the best representation of A Life Once Lost, since it doesn't have 'initial album' feel of **A Great Artist** and since it doesn't have the polish of 2005's **Hunter**. Meadows says, "The riffs are stronger. The songs are stronger, and we're happy that there's not someone from the outside messing around, telling us what to do, and to put this here and or that there." Another reason that ALOL didn't employ the services of a producer to tinker around with their sound was to keep things cost effective and efficient. "Truthfully, the money wasn't there," the singer says with candor. "We went on **Ozzfest**, and we had to spend money to do that tour, and the budget for this record wasn't as fat as we'd like it to have been. It was more of a challenge for us, since people felt we didn't prove ourselves with **Hunter**. We had to prove ourselves, even more-so, so we went balls to the wall, said that we could do it ourselves, and at the end of the day, we asked ourselves 'Why would we spend \$20,000 in the studio, for what, something that we can do ourselves?'" While we at **Hit Parader**, don't agree with Meadow's tough-on-himself assertion that **Hunter** didn't live up to the hype, it is refreshing to see his band cut monetary corners and achieve even better results.

On **Iron Gag**, ALOL attempts some new vocal patterns, in the form of clean singing. "Snake is doing the clean vocals," says Meadows, who screams his lungs out 100 percent of the time. "We felt it fit in the songs that it's in, complements what I try to do. I don't sing. I wouldn't be singing in this band if I was a singer. I'd sing in a different band. This band is about me letting out pissed off emotions. Singing is for happy people, and I'm not happy." Well, at least the singer's unhappiness gives fans some incredibly vicious music to enjoy!



AT ALL COST

"The music business is stupid," says At All Cost guitarist Michael Carrigan. That might seem like a rather negative statement to make, but the six-stringer has a valid reason for not liking the industry in which he works. First off, At All Cost released the album **It's Time To Decide** in 2005 while signed to Combat Records, a resurrected label from the 1980s that quickly folded after its exhumation, leaving the band label-less. But Carrigan isn't just referencing his own band's label woes and the business of music. He's making a statement about music and performance as art.

"It's very selfish to write songs, and to go on stage, and expect people to pay attention, especially since there is so much crap being put out these days on all too many record labels," says Carrigan, who is an avid collector of Transformer's action figures and Pez dispensers and proudly boasts of owning over 500 of these items. "On top of that, you have people in corporate places trying to rape the underground metal scene for every cent it's worth, thus turning it into a Third World music scene where every artist is starving and will do anything to play in front of more than 15 people. It's very shallow, but you have to keep your head up and not let it get to you." Spoken like a seasoned veteran who's been through his fair share of problems, but also like someone who appreciates the art form he's attached to.

At All Cost formed in Austin, Texas in 2002 and released *the Shattered Dreams And Bourgeois Schemes* EP, endured the Combat debacle, and then dusted themselves off in time to sign with Century Media for the release of **Circle Of Demons**. Musically the band, which loves life on the road, writes music that doesn't subscribe to any current trends. "It's not pop, and there are no trends. We're just honest dudes who want to create metal as an art form, and not be some makeup-wearing, cookie-cutter band," says Carrigan, who is also an aspiring stand up comedian who plans on releasing a vinyl edition of his material. "We don't like doing what all the other 'heavy' bands are doing these days, and we like to focus on melody. There are elements of classic metal, such as Iron Maiden, as well as more recent styles, like West Coast thrash and Swedish riffing in our music. We have a politically conscious mentality, too." If that sounds like your cup o' tea, then rock a copy of **Circle Of Demons** today, and thank your friends at **Hit Parader** tomorrow.



AMORPHIS

After many years together and having enjoyed a career where they were able to fuse Finnish folk with heavy metal, Amorphis have nothing to prove. But on the new album, **Silent Waters**, the band managed to remain as relevant today as when it first formed.

"We're not purposefully looking for dramatic changes," says guitarist Tomi Koivusaari about the method to the band's madness at this point in its career. "But we are open minded for all of the changes that we can make. I don't think there are two similar albums from Amorphis, as we always want to progress musically in some way. Thematically, **Silent Waters** and **Eclipse** are quite matching to each other. If **Eclipse** was sun, then **Silent Waters** would be moon."

BY: AMY SCIARRETTO

COMIN' AT YOU SAME QUESTION, DIFFERENT BANDS

Sounds like a proud parent beaming over his child! Koivusaari thinks that *Weaving The Incantation* is the one song on the new album that represents where Amorphis are camped out in the now. It's not about where they once were or where they are going, but where they are now, in this moment in time. The guitarist says, "There are some new elements, and elements from our past as well. There are acoustic, heavier, and more melodic parts on it. It also shows our new singer's capacities as a multifaceted singer."

A crucial question at this point is just how much gas is left in the Amorphis tank. How many miles are left on the band's well-traveled engine? Koivusaari says, "We got our tanks full when [vocalist] Tomi [Joutsen] joined the band, since he brings with him lots of fresh spirit. I'm sure we'll hang out for a long time. That's how we feel in this moment. If people get bored of us, we'll probably be doing some demo tapes just for ourselves, when we are like sixty years old grandpas, of course if we are still alive then! To us, making music is a way of life, and seriously, to this day, we have never thought that we should quit, even when we went through hard times."

Koivusaari also admits that when Joutsen joined the band, he wanted to play older songs from the band's catalog, which helped them to rediscover their heavy roots. "It was easier to look back from a new starting point," he says. "Also, this album is first ever in Amorphis history where the line up is the same as on the previous album!" Looks like Amorphis are only getting better with age, like a fine wine.



Usually, we ask serious, informative questions in this column. This month, we decided to forego such pleasantries in favor of a big, dumb, silly question that would hopefully illicit a humorous response from some of our favorite metallers! We decided to ask musicians about an implausible dilemma: If you were stranded on a desert island and you had to eat one of your bandmates to survive, who would you eat? Yeah, we know, it's pretty gross, but admit it—it's pretty hysterical, too!

BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME Tommy Giles

Between The Buried And Me vocalist Tommy Giles would nosh on drummer Blake Richardson for a simple reason: his size. "He is the biggest," says Giles with a chuckle. "He'd provide the most nutrition. Yeah, definitely Blake. I'd hate to see him go, but he has the most meat to offer." That's ironic, since Giles is a vegan, which obviously means no meat, dairy, or animal products in his diet. "You gotta do what you gotta do," he says. BTBAM's latest, *Colors*, is out now.

SUICIDE SILENC

"Touring, touring, and more touring," says Suicide Silence vocalist Mitch Lucker about why his little-metal-band-that-could was able to go from underground obscurity to selling an impressive 10,000 records of its debut album *The Cleansing* its first week in record stores. "That, and our live show."



Our first EP was recorded in a garage, so that was not what got people into us!"

Ok, so we get that touring, and not a debut EP, is how a young, hungry, and extra-brutal band is able to locate, capture, and keep its audience. But why, oh why are the kids with money to burn flocking to extreme, artsy metal acts like Suicide Silence and peers such as Job For A Cowboy or Through The Eyes Of The Dead. In late 2007? What makes smash-you-over-the-head metal so appealing? Simple, according to Lucker. It's basic evolutionary principles.

This new attraction to heavier music isn't really

new, since it has always been there," the screamer says. "Kids are always looking for the next heavier band, because this music is always changing. So now, the more extreme bands are starting to get recognized. And as for our place in this current movement, we bring an intense live show, where other bands may lack in the live arena."

Spoken like a confident, talented star in the making! Suicide Silence may make extra-extreme music, but there is a level of listenability present on *The Cleansing*, which is stuffed to the gills with monstrously growled vocals, double bass drumming and finger-slicing guitar riffs.

"While we were writing this record, we didn't turn down any riffage," Lucker, who says he suffers from OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder), keeps the band's tour van and trailer neat and clean and perfectly loaded every night, which is a monstrous feat for a band on the filthy road. "We didn't close ourselves into an exact style, and there are tons of different elements, and the record has way more dynamics than our older music. There is lots of time on this record for you to chill and to bang your head. The normal Joe Listener could pop this record into the stereo, and be able to get

down to it, without needing to know math equations to understand what the hell is going on in the music!" Lucker is making reference to the bands out there that make music that is so complex and complicated that it's not pleasurable to listen to! Luckily, Suicide Silence understands this musical dilemma's fine line: they are able to combine grit, guts, glory, and technical grace on *The Cleansing*.



BEHEMOTH Nergal

The members of Behemoth cut imposing figures. They wear lots of corpse paint, spiked gauntlets, and lots of black leather. They play fast 'n' furious black metal on *The Apostasy*. You'd think guitarist Nergal would have something nefarious and evil to say about eating one of his bandmates, but he doesn't, simply saying, "You don't want to know that!" with a laugh! Ah, Nergal! You're no fun at all!



COMIN' AT YOU SAME QUESTION, DIFFERENT BANDS

I HATE SALLY Dee Prescott

From the starving mouth of vocalist Dee Prescott comes this decision: "I'd rather starve than eat another band mate. I'm terrified by hair and they are all hairy dudes," the singer says. We guess he'd die if he was faced with such an agonizing decision. I Hate Sally's debut, *Don't Worry, Lady* is in stores now.

BLACK DAHLIA MURDER TREVOR STRNAD

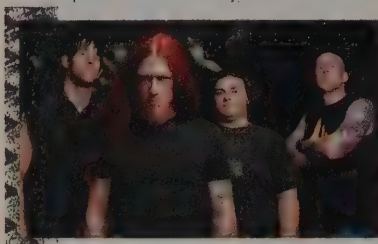
"I would go for our bass player, Bart Williams," says BDM vocalist Trevor Strnad. "He is not the biggest guy. He doesn't look like he has a lot of fat on him, but he's not skinny, either. He's prime real estate. He is a Mexican dude, so he could be spicy, as well." Spoken like a true food connoisseur. Check out *Nocturnal*, Black Dahlia Murder's third effort for Metal Blade. It's a brutal slice of blackened American thrash metal.

WALLS OF JERICHO CANDACE KUCSULAIN

Pelite frontlady Candace Kucsulain decided to go through the process of elimination, telling us who she wouldn't eat and why before telling us who she would chow down on if necessary. "Our guitarist is tall and skinny, and doesn't have enough meat on his body, so he's not worth killing and eating. Our other guitarist drinks Coke, and doesn't know what water is, so I would avoid him. Our bassist Aaron [Ruby] is clean, straightedge, and is a total water drinker, and he has the most meat on his bones, so I would eat Aaron in a heartbeat, since he's chemical free." Aren't you glad you aren't Aaron? Because Candace is a tough little chick who put a lot of thought into her answer. Walls Of Jericho will release an EP, produced by Slipknot's Corey Taylor, sometime in 2008.

PICK HIT—SANCTITY

One of the oldest—and truest—axioms in the rock and roll lexicon is, "it's good to have friends in high places." Such has certainly been the case for the young heavy metal unit Sanctity, who can count on everyone from Trivium's Matt Healy to Megadeth's Dave Mustaine as standing in their corner, ready to lend their support. In the case of Healy, it was the 21-year-old guitar prodigy who first helped the members of Sanctity land their record deal by alerting the forces at his own label of their existence. For Mustaine, it was after seeing vocalist Jared MacEachern, guitarist Zeff Childress, bassist Derek Anderson and drummer Jeremy London do their heavily metallic thing on stage that the legendary Mega-man offered Sanctity a choice opening slot on last year's *Gigantour* road outing. It's all been heady stuff for this Asheville, NC-based quartet. But with the release of their debut disc, *Road to Bloodshed*, it appears as if all the focus and interest that has initially come their way has proven to be more than justified.



"When you're a young band and someone like Dave Mustaine walks backstage at one of your shows, you definitely sit up and take notice," Childress said. "And then to have him personally invite us out on *Gigantour* was just amazing. Since we all grew up listening to bands like

Megadeth, Metallica, Slayer and Pantera, the chance to actually get to know someone that you've idolized has been one of the highlights of our lives."

It would certainly seem as if Sanctity's rock and roll career is on the verge of going from one highlight to another. With the strong, across-the-board response afforded *Road to Bloodshed*, and increasing fan interest being shown in this unit's thrash metal stage presentations, it would seem as if Sanctity is teetering on taking the hard rock world by storm. On such tracks as *Beneath the Machine*, *Zeppo* and *Seconds*, this power-packed unit displays

everything that any riff-craving fan could desire—wall-shaking rhythms, gut-wrenching vocals and just enough melodicism to make for an entertaining listening experience.

"Most of the songs on this album required that I use a very aggressive vocal approach," MacEachern said. "But we wanted to make sure to show off our more melodic side, as well. I sang in a church choir when I was a kid, so there may even be a touch of that thrown into the mix for good measure."

The inventive, free-wheeling, all-metal-all-the-time approach used so effectively by Sanctity can be traced back to the fact that London and Childress have known each other since the age of six. By the time they were in the seventh grade they had started their first band, and while that initial venture failed to hold much long-term traction, by the time they were in high school they had decided on a name for their band, and more importantly, a musical direction.

"We had each gone through groups together and apart," London said. "I had played in a Southern rock band for a while and Zeff had done his thing, as well. But when we decided to get back together, there was no question about the kind of music we wanted to play—we both loved pure metal, and we also realized that too few bands were playing that kind of music."

Starting out as a band that would mix covers of songs like Metallica's *Creeping Death* amid their own efforts, before long Sanctity began to garner some significant recognition within the South Eastern club circuit. But changes were in the air, and within months MacEachern and Anderson had come aboard to round out the band's sound. Soon they were opening shows for the likes of Fear Factory and Trivium, and when the aforementioned Mr. Healy heard Sanctity roar, there was only one thing to do... make sure they got a record deal.

"We had done a few EPs on our own," London said. "So we sent them to the guy that Matt had called. Matt even got Trivium's producer to work on a few new tracks with us. Hey, what more could we have asked for?"

SHOOTING STARS—LEGION

Deepfield are clearly one of those "new generation" of hard rock bands that doesn't seem to be intimidated by the notion of challenging the followers at every turn. No, it's not that this South Carolina-bred quartet go out of their way to antagonize or annoy. It's just that vocalist/guitarist Baxter Teal, drummer Russell Lee, guitarist J. King and bassist/vocalist Dawson Huss have never shied away of tackling controversial issues in their lyrics—especially on songs like *Wayside* and *Fall Apart*—or asking their fans to actually think about the world that's spinning around them. In fact, it is this rather expansive musical perspective that first led this ambitious crew to select their somewhat unusual name. It draws direct reference to the outer limits of the known universe—as seen through the Hubble telescope—and makes the band members ponder the ultimate question... what the heck are we all doing here?

"There's nothing wrong with making people think," Teal said. "That's especially true in today's music. At times it seems as if things have become so watered-down, and designed to appeal to the mainstream, that there's very little substance. That's something that we'd like to change, if possible. We have songs that do challenge you on a number of levels, but we have total confidence that rock fans will respond to what we're doing... and they'll enjoy it."

Teal and his cohorts began developing their rather unusual attitude toward the rock and roll craft early on. After growing tired of the tepid and predictable nature of the music scene in and around their home town of Charleston, they began a musical odyssey that saw them first venture to New York—where a showcase gig quickly landed them a recording contract—and then on to Memphis, where they recorded the contents of their debut disc. If anything, the sojourn only heightened the band's awareness of contemporary music's dire need for bands that are willing to break the proverbial mold, something the members of Deepfield seem quite content to do with every note they play and every word they sing.

"We know the chances of us really changing the path of rock and roll aren't very good," Teal said. "So I can't say doing that has become a priority for us. But what we'd like to be is some sort of catalyst for change. If we can get that ball rolling ever-so-slightly, then I think we'll have accomplished our goal... and probably had a heck of a good time in the process."

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Just saying the word Ozzfest to a generation of heavy metal fans is enough to send them into fits of pure technical ecstasy. For 10 amazing years, this beloved brain child of Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne has served as the ultimate showcase for hard rock's guitar-driven, ear-blasting charms. From coast to coast (and overseas, as well), Ozzfest has stood the test of time to now rank as a true rock and roll institution. In 2005, as Ozzfest celebrates its 10th Anniversary, there can be no question that it now ranks as the premier event of its kind in the known universe. With this year's Fest featuring the stellar skills of Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Mudvayne, Velvet Revolver and Rob Zombie along with a host of up-and-coming metal master blasters including the likes of Killswitch Engage, Mastodon and Soilwork, Ozzfest 2005 promises to be the best of this premier Fest's decade-long run. With all that in mind, Hit Parader is proud to offer this heart-felt 80-page, 16 poster salute to the most hallowed event in heavy metal history ... OZZFEST!

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OZZFEST AD



collision course

HP reviews the latest CDs & DVDs

Each month we like to put two of our top **Hit Parader** staffers in a room with a stack of new releases. Sometimes they agree on the quality of these recent arrivals— more often, they don't. Either way, we call this exercise in musical futility **Collision Course**.

VENGED SEVENFOLD, **AVENGED SEVENFOLD**

Avenged Sevenfold have made their sizable rep by being one of the most unpredictable and controversial bands of the current hard rock era. At times coming across as heavy metal "loyalists" who've carefully studied the lessons of rock and roll history, at other moments these So Cal heroes seem determined to spit directly in the face of everything that hard rock traditionalists hold dear. That dichotomy rests near the heart of the band's efforts on **Avenged Sevenfold**, a disc that often comes across as a non-stop amusement park thrill ride... where the breaks have been tampered with. The results, especially on such rabble-rousing tracks as *Critical Acclaim* and *Afterlife*, show a band that has grown comfortable with their role as figure-heads of the latest hard rock revival.

GRADE: B+

Everything that A7X touch on **Avenged Sevenfold** is nothing less than pure sonic gold. What they started to show on *City of Evil* a few years ago, has come to full fruition on this effort. Always a band to march to the beat of their own drummer, on this disc Zacky, Shadows and the boys prove that they're never going to be limited by major label expectations... or even the expectations of their fans. They're gonna do what they wanna do... and do it with their own sense of hard rockin' style. What more could anyone ask?

GRADE: A-

H.I.M., **VENUS DOOM**

So many things— both good and bad— have been said about Scandinavian "love metal" rockers H.I.M. over the last few years, that it's hard to know exactly how to react to the contents of **Venus Doom**. There's no question that vocalist Ville Valo and his troops have pushed the creative boundaries of their sound, expanding it to create a more lush, dramatic backdrop for their guitar-driven opuses. And while there is no doubt that this is exciting and at times ethereal stuff, on occasion it seems to wander precariously close to becoming a parody of this unit's earlier work. But when Valo reins in the action just a little,



H.I.M. show why some have called them the most exhilarating hard rock band in the world.

GRADE: B-

Whenever I hear music made by H.I.M. it transports me to another time and another place. Rather than getting my blood boiling and my fist





AVENGED SEVENFOLD

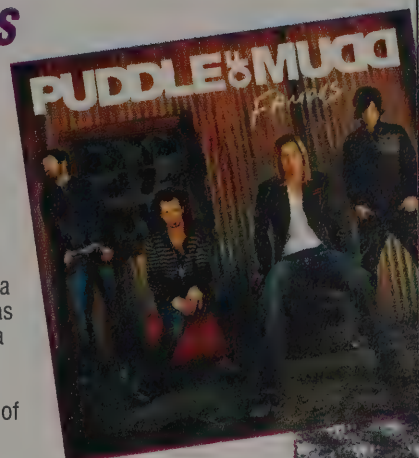
pumping—as does most of my favorite hard rock material—the contents of **Venus Doom** touches me in a deeper more contemplative spot... probably right above my spleen. This is music designed to be listened to late at night, with a few candles burning in the corner, and the mind free to wander along whatever paths it chooses. Indeed, **Venus Doom** could well serve as a soundtrack for such mental excursions.

GRADE: B+

PUDDLE OF MUDD, *FAMOUS*

It may now be a little hard to believe that there was a time in rather recent rock history when Puddle of Mudd was the “it” band of the moment. Their 2001 debut disc, **Come Clean**, sold over 5 million copies, and supermodel-dating main man Wes Scantlin was drawing comparisons to a young Kurt Cobain. But since those heady times much of the bloom has come off the POM rose. Their second disc sold only 10% of their illustrious debut, and many thought that the band had reached a rather abrupt end-of-the-line. But... wait a minute. It certainly sounds as if on **Famous** this unit has once again found their rock and roll “legs”, producing a disc crammed full of stick-to-your-ribs melodies and just-heavy-enough guitar riffs. It’s been said (by those who say such things) that a good song never goes out of style, and on their third album, Puddle of Mudd seem intent on testing that time-honored axiom.

GRADE: B+



Let’s face it, the rock world is always going to need bands like Puddle of Mudd. Whether they call themselves Nickelback or Poison, bands that can produce radio-friendly fodder will always be in demand. While I must admit that I kind’s liked these guys when they first came along (still love the “dirty” lyrics to *Blurry*), I hadn’t even given them a second’s thought over the last five years. Thus, I was pleasantly surprised when I gave **Famous** a spin and found the songs to be exactly what I expected... and more.

GRADE: B

DROWNING POOL, *FULL CIRCLE*

Some bands just won’t go away. Three albums for Drowning Pool... three different vocalists. Of course, we all loved the band’s debut effort, **Sinner**, and hits like *Bodies*. And we all mourned the tragic passing of original singer Dave Williams only months after that disc hit the top of the charts. But then the band took a bit of a misstep with their second album and most industry experts figured it was all over for these Texas men of metal. But with the addition of former Soil frontman Ryan McCombs, the power, passion and precision of Drowning Pool has been returned, making **Full Circle** this group’s best effort ever. While it may not have the instant smash single that their platinum-selling debut enjoyed, from first cut to last, this collection features a level of consistency that is difficult to attain and easy to enjoy.

GRADE: B

Things have indeed come full circle for Drowning Pool. I was at the *Ozzfest* performance back in 2002 when Ryan McCombs hopped up on stage to perform with Dave Williams and the boys. Who would have imagined that 5 years later Williams would be gone and McCombs would be the new man at the helm of the DP rock and roll machine? On **Full Circle** there’s no question that McCombs makes his presence felt, both vocally and as a songwriter. This is mighty tasty stuff, and just heavy enough to satisfy my sonic cravings.

GRADE: B+

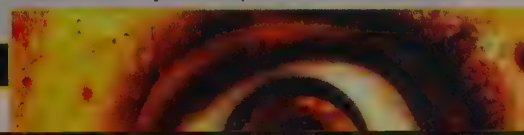
TED NUGENT, *LOVE GRENADE*

Oh...my...God!!! I think I’ve waited all my life for the release of a new Ted Nugent album. I remember grooving to my older brother’s already-worn-out copies of **Cat Scratch Fever** when I was a little kid, and I never actually thought that the Motor City Madman would get around to making another album—at least not one as ready-for-bear as this one. (And we figured that gun-toting Ted would like our hunting reference!) Though there’s little on **Love Grenade** that any Nugent fan hasn’t already heard a hundred times before, it’s still mighty good to hear his guitar-driven intensity once again roaring through your headphones.

GRADE: B

I’ll give him this... for a guy who must be close to 60 Ted Nugent still rocks pretty damn hard. But right now I need a dose of his ’70s styled rock about as much as I need a dose of some STD. If I wanted to hear stuff like this, I’d just go pick up one of his old albums... not that I’m sure I’d know where to find them. I’m sure there are few old-timer fans out there who will get off on this stuff, but for anyone under the age of 40, we’ve got news for you: there’s a whole, new wonderful hard rock world out there for you to explore.

GRADE: C+



2007

THE YEAR IN METAL

Indeed it often seems like no matter what ridiculous things the mainstream media may have to say about it. No matter how the unpredictable, trend-bending sales charts may perpetually work against it. And no matter how over-priced concert revenues may have subverted its true cultural impact, there remains only one undeniable fact in contemporary music—hard rock still dominates the rock and roll scene like no other musical style.

Of course, the truth is that *every* year is fascinating in the world of heavy metal! But 2007 was something truly special. A flood of new releases by headline-grabbing bands such as Megadeth, Korn, Stone Sour, Avenged Sevenfold, Marilyn Manson and Velvet Revolver filled the airwaves, and tours from the historic likes of Slayer, Ozzy Osbourne, Rage Against the Machine, Type O Negative and the reunited Heaven And Hell served to excite fans around the globe.

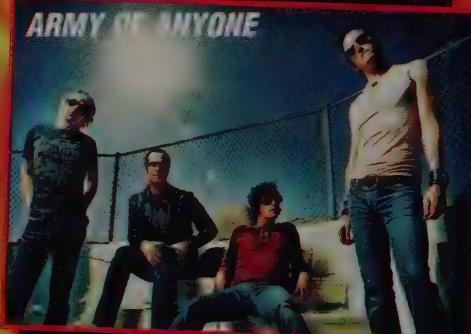
Yet despite its string of chart victories and touring triumphs, over the last 12 months the metal form also faced its share of challenges, with diminishing CD sales and illegal song downloading cutting into record label profits—and subsequent signings of new groups. In addition, soaring ticket prices (except for notable “free” events such as last summer’s *Ozzfest*) served to limit the number of shows even the most hard core fan could afford to attend. Despite all of that, however, 2007 will unquestionably go down as one of the most exciting and unpredictable years in hard rock history.

“This has been a very exciting time for heavy metal music,” said the one-and-only Ozzy Osbourne. “What really excites me is to hear so many new bands that seem to have a real understanding of this music’s history.”

So what exactly were the Big Stories of the 2007 Heavy Metal kingdom? The flood of major multi-band tours—including Linkin Park’s *Projekt Revolution*, Korn’s *Family Values* and, of course, *Ozzfest*—that rocked the nation from stem-to-stern certainly ranked among the year’s most notable metal accomplishments. The chart-topping returns of bands as diverse as Chevelle, Down, Atreyu, and Nine Inch Nails, who each produced new albums of amazing depth, power and quality, were significant enough to make even those not regularly attuned to the power and majesty of hard rock sit up and take



ALTER BRIDGE



ARMY OF ANYONE



OPERATOR



SHADOWS FALL

notice. The unexpected reformations of Rage Against the Machine, Van Halen (with David Lee Roth) and Heaven And Hell were also headline-worthy, with all these hallowed units reuniting after multi-year absences from the rock scene. There was the seemingly never-ending wait for new albums from Metallica, Guns N’ Roses and AC/DC—with the continued promise of new music from these hallowed hard rock institutions seemingly always “just around the corner”. Then there was the emergence of upstarts like Operator, HellYeah, Army of Anyone and 3 Inches of Blood, bands—some featuring very familiar faces—whose work managed to simultaneously salute hard rock’s past while blazing a bold path towards the form’s future. Indeed, when everything is considered, the previous 12 months may well go down among the most notable, exciting and enjoyable periods in the history of the heavy metal form.

Just a few years after many so-called media pundits had boldly—and rather foolishly—espoused the philosophy that hard rock was as dated as yesterday’s news, in 2007 the style proved to be not only still viable, but one of the most vibrant commercial and artistic forces on earth. Such stellar attractions as Alter Bridge, DevilDriver and Shadows Fall further established their chart-topping, seat-filling credentials, with their actions serving to further solidify hard rock’s hold on the collective hearts and minds of the rock and roll masses. At the same time, veteran acts like Stone Sour, the Deftones and Slayer returned to the metal world, doing the musical voodoo that they do to the tune of best-selling albums and sold-out tours. Yes, from rising upstarts to gristled veterans, ‘07 was a year when everyone, everywhere once again seemed to be putting the pedal to the metal!

“We’ve been doing this for a very long time, and we’ve noticed some definite trends starting to happen,” said Slayer’s bassist/vocalist Tom Araya. “Metal is definitely coming back strong, and perhaps the best part is that the bands who are playing it these days have definitely developed their own approach to it. This year we toured with Marilyn Manson. Last year we toured with Lamb of God and Mastodon. That shows the variety available in this style of music.”



DEFTONES

KORN



HP

Somewhat surprisingly, despite all the high-profile successes that it's recently enjoyed, the perception held by many industry insiders concerning the 2007 metal empire was that it remained a form in the midst of transition. Long gone were the "standard" metal trademarks of long hair, tight jeans and seemingly endless guitar solos. In their stead were shaven heads, tattoos and six-string riffs heavy enough to sink a battleship. Yes, there's no question that as the 21st Century hit its eighth year, the face, attitude and ambition of the hard rock world had taken a definite turn in a more intense and unpredictable direction. "Underground" bands such as Machine Head, Chimaira, Clutch, Daath and Cradle of Filth made their stand, once again proving that metal had many differing faces to show a demanding public. But despite the inherent anger and intensity that fueled so many of the year's top hard rock releases, that attitude seemed to have little negative impact on the form's commercial success. In fact, more than 20 million metal-oriented albums were sold world-wide during the last year—an impressive figure in anyone's book.

Before anyone thinks that it was just metal's young lions who were leading this commercial charge, however, let it be said that metal's legendary forces also helped pave the way for this year's historic impact on the rock scene. While the likes of the reformed Dio-era members of Black Sabbath continued on their seemingly never-ending touring cycle under the banner of Heaven And Hell, other timeless hard rock forces like Ozzy, Korn and Iron Maiden continued to prove that they had what it took to amaze a new generation of fans—virtually all of whom weren't even born when most of these artists first scored major international acclaim.

"Having the chance to tour with Tony (Iommi), Geezer (Butler) and Vinny (Appice) again is something that at times I thought might never be possible," said H&H vocalist Ronnie James Dio. "But having gone through such a lengthy time apart, and believing that a reunion like this might never occur, has made the reality all-the-better."

Who could possibly have imagined back in the mousse-abusing '80s, the grunge-filled '90s or even the alterna-rocking early part of the 21st Century, the size, shape and power of this latest metal revival. Not only are the bands international in scope, and incredibly varied in appearance, background and influence, but many of them have effectively managed to reinvent the rock and roll "wheel"—

a task that few industry observers thought could ever be done. From the impassioned, quasi-operatic cries of Italy's Lacuna Coil, to the outrageously theatrical outpourings of Finland's Lordi, to the stick-to-your-ribs riffs offered up by America's own Velvet Revolver, this year's hard rock form was a veritable bastion of both contrast and bombast.

Clearly, there's no way of denying the major impact that the heavy metal form had on the contemporary music world in 2007. Everywhere you looked and everywhere you went, the sounds and styles of today's top hard rock attractions were there to meet you eye-to-eye and ear-to-ear. Clearly, today's hard rock music is more varied, vibrant and vital than ever before. It makes us all anxious for 2008 to begin just so we can discover what's gonna happen next!



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LACUNA COIL



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KORN

THE OTHER SIDE... AND BEYOND POSTER SPECIAL!

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Here it is... the **ULTIMATE** salute to Korn, one of the most respected and influential bands in hard rock history, on the release of their new album, *See You On The Other Side*. In addition to 16 Giant-Size Posters featuring Jonathan, Fieldy, Munky and David, there are exclusive interviews and profiles--including an exclusive on-the-set report on the band's explosive *Twisted Transistor* video.



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KORN AD



With the release of their latest album, **Lead Sails Paper Anchor**, Atreyu have hit the Big Time... both literally and figuratively. As the first major label release of their decade-long career (which follows two years after their break-out effort, **A Death-Grip On Yesterday**), the new disc casts this So Cal-based, commercially-oriented, emotive-metal unit more prominently into the spotlight than ever before. And while vocalist Alex Varkatzas, guitarist Dan Jacobs, drummer/vocalist Brandon Saller, guitarist Travis Miguel and bassist Marc McKnight certainly welcome all the attention that has finally begun to come their way, they now realize that with such notoriety also comes a degree of pressure that these laid-back dudes had previously been able to avoid.

"You can never figure out all the things that life may have in store for you," Varkatzas said. "The surprises are what make things interesting. We knew that with a new label we were going to face things that we had never previously encountered. That can be intimidating if you let it... or it can be a lot of fun. We hope this album reaches more people than anything else we've done because it's the best thing we've ever put together.

This shows off a more mature version of this band—one that seems to know that when we rock we need to rock as hard as we can, but one that also knows that it's okay to try a few new things and experiment as much as possible."

As shown throughout **Lead Sails Paper Anchor**, while Atreyu may be feeling a little bit of the heat generated by their major label status, they've still managed to create the boldest, brashiest most genre-bending collection of their career. Odes like *Can't Happen Here* represent the band at their metallic best—a rip-roaring rocker filled with vivid images of war as well as a hook big enough to land a whale. But it's not the "traditional" tunes like *Honor* and *Becoming the Bull* that really make this disc stand out. Rather, it's the unexpected twists-and-turns the band takes along their rock and roll highway, which include the country-stomp feel of *Lead Sails (And a Paper Anchor)* and the silicon-click homage to the well-documented excesses enjoyed by '80s supergroups like Motley Crue which characterize *Blow*.

"*Blow* is one of my favorite tracks on the album because it allowed us to show our love for '80s-styled metal," Varkatzas said. "That style of music always had

so much energy, and it's been too long since a band did a big, epic hard rock song—which is exactly what we did on that one. But on the other side of things you've got a song like *Lead Sails* which shows the kind of diversity we ended up having on this album. I've always wanted to try my hand at what might be called a 'country-styled ballad', and that's the way that one turned out. It'll surprise some people, but that's the whole point of doing it."

Certainly Atreyu's growth is apparent throughout **Lead Sails Paper Anchor**. From Varkatzas' greatly expanded singing style to the far-reaching rock and roll vocabulary from which the band draws its primary inspiration, this may well be the disc that puts this unit at the top of hard rock's 21st Century pecking order. Since its release in the summer (which was followed up by the band's headline-grabbing run at *Ozzfest*), the album has already sold over 250,000 copies, rocketing this quintet to the kind of prominence they've long sought. And while their unpredictable approach to their craft on **Lead Sails** has once again served as a lightning rod for some within the hard rock community, the yin/yang reaction Atreyu's music has created among members of



BY WINSTON CUMMINGS

metal's cutting edge has helped make their latest disc one of the year's most talked-about collections.

"It's been very interesting to hear the way people have responded to what we've done on this album," Varkatzas said. "I don't know if we were really prepared to have that many responses—and to have the wide variety of reactions, as well. The vast majority of what has been said and written has been very positive, and we're all incredibly appreciative of that. But the funny thing is that those that haven't been as positive, I actually kind of understand. Our music isn't easily explained or categorized... and it's not designed to be. That bothers some people. They want to say, 'Oh, Atreyu sound like so-and-so.' When they can't do that as easily as they'd like, it apparently annoys them."

The inherent dexterity of Atreyu's style obviously has more built-in benefits than detriments. It has allowed this Orange County fivesome to tour with heavy-weight contenders such as Lamb of God and Slipknot, and then turn around and hit the road with the likes of decidedly more mainstream fare including Taking Back Sunday. Atreyu's ability to write, record and perform instantly memorable, stick-to-your-ribs tunes marks them as one of the few members of the

current metal scene that seems to possess the musical goods needed for major cross-over acclaim—a fact that for whatever reason, seems to royally annoy many metal "purists".

"You can never figure out all the things that life may have in store for you."

"It's funny how our ability to write good songs and then play them really well has pissed off some people in this business," Varkatzas said. "But we can live with that, as long as the fans continue to come out to the shows and show their support by buying this album."

Ever since they first began their quest for public acclaim back in early 2000, Atreyu have seemingly derived particular pleasure from presenting music

that's boldly worked against the grain of traditional metal ideals. Since the emergence of their groundbreaking 2001 EP, *The Fractures in the Facade of Your Porcelain Beauty*, this unit has done just about everything in their power to create a sound distinctly their own. Blending strangely-tuned guitars with powerful rhythms and hypnotically transcendent melodies, the group has continually managed to expand their audience while never taking more than a measured step towards full commercial sell-out. It was that delicate balance that helped turn their debut disc, 2002's *Suicide Notes and Butterfly Kisses*, into an underground phenomenon. And it was their ability to expand on those fundamental ideals that transformed *A Deathgrip on Yesterday* into a true, multi-dimensional rock showcase. Now, with *Lead Sails Paper Anchor*, Atreyu hope to take their distinctly different musical philosophies one major step ahead.

"This is a fresh start for us in a number of ways," Varkatzas said. "We have a new album out on a new label—one that totally believes in us. That feeling empowered us to make this the ultimate Atreyu album."

AVENGED SEVENFOLD

CHANGING COURSE

BY LAUREN MICHAELS

It's taken them eight years to get there, but with the release of their self-titled new disc, **Avenged Sevenfold** have finally arrived at hard rock's promised land. Building on all the excitement and energy offered on their major label debut, 2005's *City of Evil*, on **Avenged Sevenfold** this Orange County, CA quintet have proven that they just may be the most talented and determined band hailing from this generation of hard rock heroes. For vocalist M. Shadows, guitarist Zacky Vengeance, guitarist Synyster Gates, drummer the Rev and bassist Johnny Christ, their ascension to the pinnacle of heavy music acclaim comes after a lengthy period of struggle and doubt. But the fact that they've not only survived their rock and roll ordeal, but emerged from their "battle" better, bolder and brasher than ever before has only made their successful sojourn seem that much sweeter. With their new self-produced disc running the gamut from the roaring power of *Critical Acclaim* to the swaggering stance of *Gunslinger*, it's clear that the members of A7X are enjoying their time in the spotlight, a fact we discussed with the band during a recent tour break.

other types of contemporary music—everyone from Toby Keith to T.I. I won't say that their music influenced us as much as it inspired us to be more creative with our own music.

HP: Do you have a favorite song on the album?

MS: That's always so tough. At this point you're so close to them, and you love them all. If you didn't, you wouldn't have done them. But *Critical Acclaim*, *Almost Easy*, *Lost*, *A Little Piece of Heaven* and *Afterlife* are all great songs. I hope we get to play all of them—and a lot of the other new ones—when we go back out on the road.

HP: This is your second major label album. Do you feel more "secure" in your status these days?

MS: Having our label show so much confidence in us—especially when it came to letting us produce the album—really does make us feel more secure. Having come from indie labels earlier in our career, a lot of people told us that being on a major would be very tough for us, that they'd "limit" our creativity. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Hit Parader: What made you guys decide to produce **Avenged Sevenfold** yourself?

M. Shadows: It was one of those things that just happened as we proceeded along with this album. I don't think it was part of the original plan. We started working on this music almost as soon as we got off tour in 2006. Everyone in the band would wander down to my house in Huntington Beach and we'd go into my garage where we had all our gear set up. Once we realized where this material was heading—which was in a very diverse direction—we felt that we were the ones best prepared to produce it. We approached the label with the idea, and thankfully they had the confidence in us to tell us to go ahead.

Zacky Vengeance: We knew that producing this album was going to be a little risky for us, but that idea excited us. We've always enjoyed challenging ourselves, and taking on that kind of responsibility with these songs definitely did that.

HP: How would you say that the material on **Avenged Sevenfold** differs from your previous efforts... most notably *City of Evil*?

ZV: It's the most diverse album we've ever done... by far! We've grown up a lot over the last few years—and I mean that in a good sense. We've opened our ears to a lot of what's going on out there in terms of music, and we've tried to absorb some of that while maintaining the essence of what this band has always been about.

MS: There have been a lot of times recently when we just found ourselves totally uninspired by the rock music we were hearing. It just didn't hit us the way it should have, so as we spent time on the road we found ourselves listening to artists in

HP: Have you noticed other differences being on a major label as compared to being on indies—as you were for the release of your earlier discs, *Sounding the Seventh Trumpet* and *Waking the Fallen*?

ZV: You know where you notice a difference? When you're recording. If you want to do something on the album that may be expensive, now you can afford to do it. There's definitely a degree of freedom and confidence associated with being on a major that we never had before. But once we all get together and start making music, we still go back to the basic things that got us turned on to rock and roll in the first place.

HP: How have you reacted to everyone now expecting HUGE things out of A7X?

ZV: I guess it matters who's doing the "expecting." If it's one of the fans who've been with us from the beginning, then I don't think there's anything cooler. But if it's someone who may have first discovered us with *City of Evil* or even this album, we ask them to go back, check out the earlier albums and get a good overview of this band. That way they'll understand where we are and where we've come from.

HP: Is it hard to believe that it's taken the band almost a decade to get where they are today?

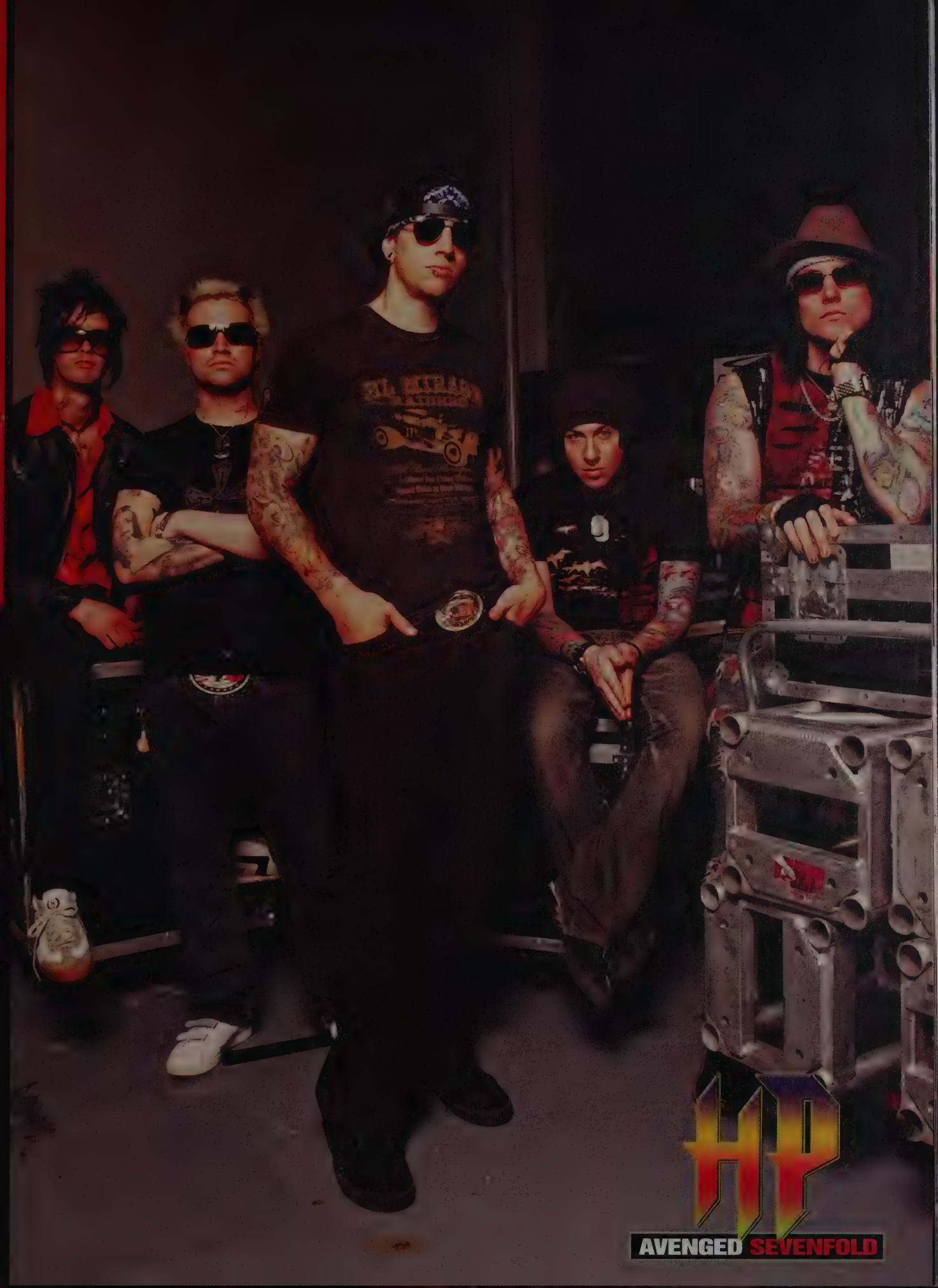
ZV: The fact is that we've taken everything nice and slow in our career. We haven't pushed anything or let anything that's happened us take away from our focus. That's why we're trying not to let what's happening now get to us. We want to keep making the kind of music we've always made without feeling that we're selling out to fame—or increased media attention—in any way. We seem like we're a lightning rod for criticism like that. Some people feel that we're the current voice of hard rock... and others feel that we've had to sell out some of our basic beliefs to get where we are. Well, at least from my perspective that's not true.

HP: So what are Avenged Sevenfold's "basic beliefs"?

ZV: We're a band that combines a lot of different influences and styles into what we do. You can't just dismiss us as a metal band or a punk band or a goth band or a pop band. We're all that... and more. There's always been just as much Bad Religion in what we do as Pantera or Iron Maiden. That's what pisses some people off. They want to be able to label us and categorize us, and they can't do it. They fans love us because of that. But it's frustrating some people in the media. But that doesn't bother us.

HP: But there's a darkness to a lot of the band's material that continues to catch some people a little off-guard.

ZV: Yeah, there's definitely a darkness there—kind of a goth thing, to some extent. We've always had that in our music. It has nothing to do with how we feel as people or how successful we may become. That's a feeling that's deep inside all of us and it's probably never going to go away.



AVENGED SEVENFOLD

KORN

THEN THERE WERE THREE

BY HARRY CARTER

Jonathan Davis had an unmistakable smirk on his face. Despite his rather funky facial hair and his wrap-around shades, he looked very much like that kid you know in school who somehow *always* seems ready for the surprise pop-quiz... no matter what the subject might be. Yup, Korn's legendary vocalist just *knew* the question was coming, and like a batter waiting for a hanging curve to hit out of the park, Davis jumped on it as soon as we asked the inevitable, "Why did Korn decide to not put a title on their latest album?"

"Did Metallica put a title on their 'black' album?" he asked. "Did the Beatles put a title on their 'white' album? I don't know if we're really comparing this album to any of those, but in some ways we are. It's our way of saying that this album doesn't really

chemistry of what you're doing and end up with something that's equally as exciting, and that's what we've done on this album. With Head and David not around, we all had to step up and take things to a higher level. That was particularly true for Munky who was amazing from start-to-finish; he even plays a solo on *Innocent Bystander*, which is a 'first' for one of our albums. When you're challenged—as we've been by the changes—either you respond or you fall apart. The passion we all still share for this band not only kept us alive but inspired us to create something really special."

Somewhat ironically, despite all of the vigorous words that Davis spews forth—and despite all the positive reviews that their latest disc has generated—many fans had perhaps begun to wonder if what was left of this once-precedent-setting unit was

a song (*Innocent Bystander*) about what it's like for me to be sober on the road... yet still be surrounded by an on-going party. There's our tip-of-the-hat to 'death metal' on *Hold On*, and there are even a few more songs about the departure of our ex-guitarist (*Ever Be and Love is Luxury*) that help me finally get all of that out of my system. And then there's *Evolution*, which is about the human race—which has basically not evolved much since we were monkeys."

With their latest batch of songs serving to jar nerves, upset the music mainstream and delight fans in equal abundance, it seems as if these days Korn are very comfortable in their own skin. Despite their recent defections, and the constant pressures placed upon them by a new generation of Korn-inspired bands who now want

"The key to this album is the dynamics."

have any boundaries—so it really didn't need a title. It's also kind of mysterious, and it's kind of cool for the fans as well."

Being "cool" has always been something that comes very naturally for Korn. During their historic 15 year career, these California natives have sold over 25 million copies of discs such as *Korn*, *Life Is Peachy* and 2005's *See You On The Other Side*. During that time they've practically reinvented the hard rock "wheel" by incorporating diverse rhythms and unpredictable melodies within their quasi-metallic context. But despite all that they've accomplished, the last few years haven't been the easiest of times for Korn. First, back in 2004, guitarist Brian "Head" Welch left the band to pursue his religious convictions. Then in 2006, drummer David Silveria took a leave-of-absence from the band in order to spend more time with his family. Despite being whittled down to a trio consisting of Davis, guitarist James "Munky" Shaffer and bassist Fieldy, as the band set to work on their latest collection, they did so with a sense of purpose and focus rarely equaled in their lengthy career.

"We have obviously gone through some changes," Davis said. "But rather than looking at that as a big 'negative', we tried to use it to change the basic dynamics of the music we're making. You can change the

still really Korn. After all, it was their *two* guitar lineup and propulsive rhythm section that originally helped this band forge a sound that changed the face of the hard rock universe back in the mid-'90s. But judging by the contents of their "untitled" disc, you'd better bet-your-butt that this is still very much Korn in all their fiery, free-wheeling fury.

Once again depending on cutting-edge producers Atticus Ross and the Matrix (who made their Korn debut on *See You On The Other Side*) to give their music a different "feel", this time around Davis, Fieldy and Munky have also returned-at-heart to the heavy, "vintage" Korn sound that earmarked their earliest—and best—albums. And while some long-time followers of the hard rock scene may argue that Korn's time as true heavy music taste-makers and hit-breakers is a thing of the past, here—especially on tracks like *Hold On*, *Innocent Bystander* and the aptly named *Starting Over*—they display the goods that have made them permanent members of the hard rock hierarchy.

"This album makes you really listen from start-to-finish," Davis said. "There's a very unified feel to it that hasn't always been there on our last few records. I think we touch on just about everything. There's

to grab at the king's crown, these hallowed rockers clearly remain above the fray. As shown throughout their new disc—as well as during their headlining role in last summer's *Family Values* tour (which also featured the likes of the Deftones and Stone Sour), Korn are still one of hard rock's primal forces. Quite simply, despite more than a dozen years atop the heavy metal meat grinder, they still rank among the most innovative and invigorating bands in the history of the hard rock form.

"The whole *Family Values* tour was great for us this year," Davis said. "The three of us really enjoyed it, and we had so much help from the other musicians we had in the band. Joey Jordison from Slipknot was amazing on drums; he brought an entire new level of energy to a lot of our material. And Clint Lowery from Sevendust was with us on guitar. He helped to really round out our sound. It's fun playing with different musicians because it keeps everything very fresh. When you're on the road with so many hungry young bands, that's always very important. What's amazing to me is to think that when we started out, most of our fans were 14 or 15. Now those fans are doctors or lawyers who are bringing their own kids to our shows. We're transcending generations, and that's very cool"



HP
JONATHAN DAVIS

Operator: "These songs took a lot of time and effort."



Big Time Sound Operator

BY FRANK MILLER

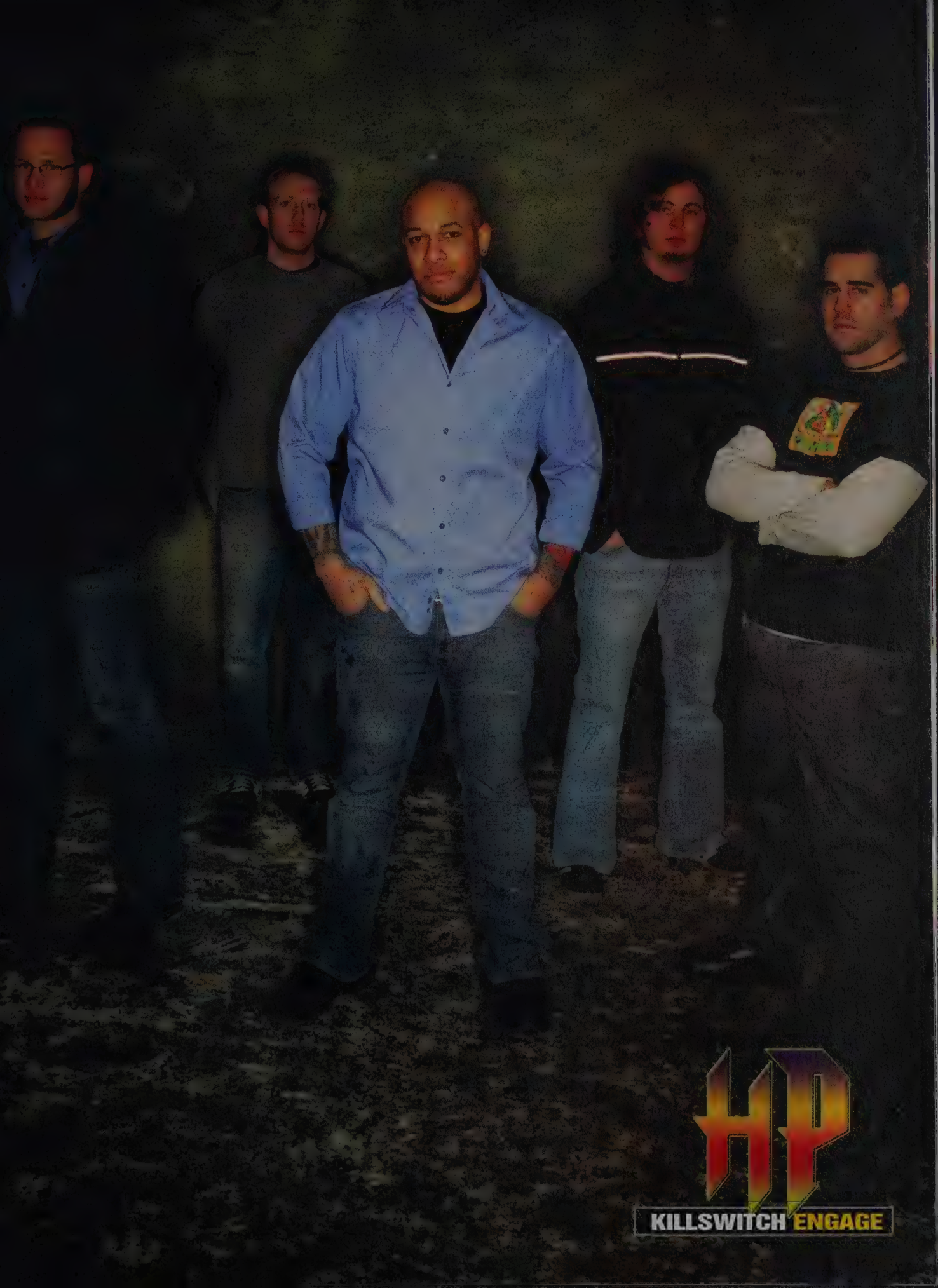
"We're a band that's drawn from groups like Led Zeppelin, Pantera and Guns N' Roses."

On this particular late summer afternoon, Operator's main man Johnny Strong found himself some 2,000 miles from his home in sunny Los Angeles. He was riding in a van, headed towards his band's next gig somewhere in the wilds of Tennessee... and on top of everything else, he was having trouble with his cell phone. But despite any and all of the little distractions that life can throw at a young guy on his first national tour, you couldn't help but note the excitement that marked every comment that came out of Strong's mouth. Clearly, the dude was having the time of his life! With Operator's debut disc, **Soulcrusher**, drawing rave reviews for its "classic" hard rock sound, and the group's on-stage extravaganzas leaving unsuspecting fans in wide-eyed amazement, it would seem as if the years of hard work put in by vocalist/guitarist Strong and his bandmates (guitarist Ricky Thomas, former Puddle of Mudd guitarist Paul James Phillips and bassist Wade Carpenter) have finally begun to pay off in big rock and roll dividends.

"I've worked on this band and these songs for a long, long time," he said. "So having the chance to get out on the road like this is incredible. We're a little different from a lot of today's bands for a number of key reasons; first off, we have a sense of rock history—we're a band that's unashamedly drawn its influences from groups like Led Zeppelin, Pantera and Guns N' Roses. Secondly, we don't mind having a more uplifting, positive attitude than a lot of the groups I'm hearing. Hey, if you can't be positive about being in a rock and roll band and having a great time, then you've got a serious problem."

Strong's attitude towards music also reflects his "go-for-it" approach to seemingly everything else in his life. As someone who enjoys partaking in mixed martial arts combat when he's away from the rock and roll trail, this is one guy who has *never* backed away from a good fight... he'd much rather attack 'em head-on. As shown on such **Soulcrusher** tracks as *Nothing to Lose* and *Delicate*, Operator is one band seemingly determined to turn its collective back on the "woe is us" mentality which currently dominates the metal world. In stark contrast, their bold, brash approach to their craft—mixed with Strong's decidedly "cosmic" sensibility—marks this unit as a clear contender in the late 2007 hard rock sweepstakes.

"You only have a few moments to make your mark on this planet," he said. "You've got to make the most of it. All our shared philosophies and attitudes about religion, love or whatever are fine. But when you boil it all down, we're just creatures hurtling through a immense universe that doesn't really give a damn about our little problems. That's what **Soulcrusher** is about. Just take all the pain, weakness and hopelessness you may feel and throw them all out the window—to exist like that is a complete waste of your life."



KILLSWITCH ENGAGE

HIT PARADER'S ULTIMATE HARD ROCK

TOP 10'S

HUNDREDS OF LISTS TO ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, AMUSE & ANNOY!

Lists... lists... oh boy, do we have lists! Over the last few months we've gathered together the combined forces of the Hit Parader editorial staff in order to pick their ever-active brains about what they consider to be the "Top 10" candidates in a dizzying assortment of heavy metal categories. You wanna know who we consider Hard Rock's All-Time Top 10 Vocalists... Guitarists... 21st Century Stars? You'll find 'em all here! You wanna find out what we consider to be The All-Time Top 10 Kiss Songs... or maybe just The All-Time Top 10 Rockers Named Dave? You wanna know who we consider to be the All-Time Top 10 members of Black Sabbath... or Iron Maiden? All that info is contained within these hallowed pages... along with literally *hundreds* of other metallic lists, all designed to entertain, educate, amuse and annoy you to the utmost degree. So with all that in mind, we proudly present a very special issue, Hit Parader's Ultimate Hard Rock Top 10 Lists.

TOP 10 HARD ROCK BANDS OF 2007

1. AVENGED SEVENFOLD
2. DOWN
3. HIM
4. ATREYU
5. KORN
6. OZZY OSBOURNE
7. VAN HALEN
8. HELLYEAH
9. HEAVEN AND HELL
10. VELVET REVOLVER

TOP 10 HARD ROCK CDs OF 2007

1. HIM, *VENUS DOOM*
2. LINKIN PARK, *MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT*
3. KORN, *KORN*
4. DOWN, *III*
5. AVENGED SEVENFOLD, *AVENGED SEVENFOLD*
6. VELVET REVOLVER, *LIBERTAD*
7. MARILYN MANSON, *EAT ME, DRINK ME*
8. SHADOWS FALL, *THREADS OF LIFE*
9. OPERATOR, *SOULCRUSHER*
10. OZZY OSBOURNE, *BLACK RAIN*

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



AVENGED SEVENFOLD

TOP 10 HARD ROCK STARS OF 2007

1. PHILIP ANSELMO
2. JONATHAN DAVIS
3. OZZY OSBOURNE
4. VILLE VALO
5. SCOTT WEILAND
6. DAVE MUSTAINE
7. ZACKY VENGEANCE
8. JIMMY PAGE
9. CHESTER BENNINGTON
10. ROB ZOMBIE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL HARD ROCK CITIES

1. LONDON
2. NEW YORK

3. BIRMINGHAM (ENGLAND)
4. LOS ANGELES
5. SEATTLE
6. TOKYO
7. SYDNEY
8. SAN FRANCISCO
9. PARIS
10. HELSINKI

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARD ROCKERS OVER 50

1. OZZY OSBOURNE
2. JIMMY PAGE
3. STEVEN TYLER
4. ROBERT PLANT
5. ANGUS YOUNG
6. PAUL STANLEY
7. LEMMY
8. GENE SIMMONS
9. RITCHIE BLACKMORE
10. TONY IOMMI

ALL-TIME TOP 10 KISS SONGS

1. DETROIT ROCK CITY
2. COLD GIN
3. ROCK AND ROLL ALL NITE
4. STRUTTER
5. DEUCE
6. SHOUT IT OUT LOUD
7. HARD LUCK WOMAN
8. DO YOU LOVE ME
9. CHRISTEEN SIXTEEN
10. BETH



JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



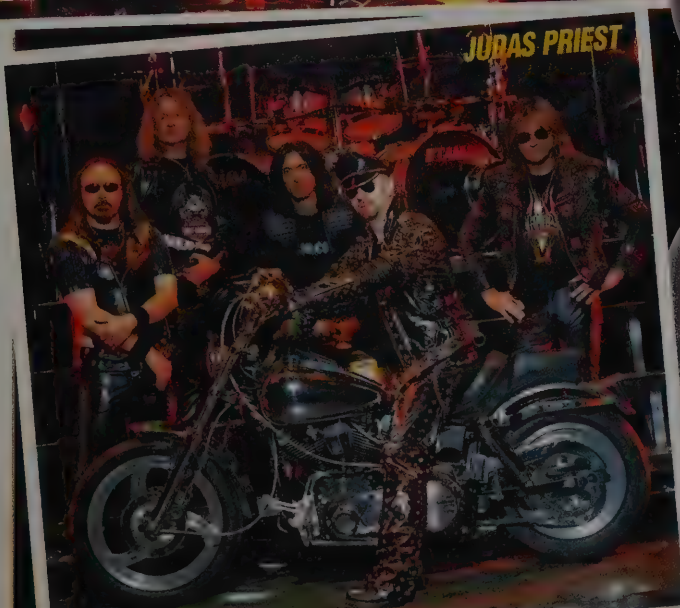
PANTERA



CHEVELLE



LED ZEPPELIN



JUDAS PRIEST

ALL-TIME TOP 10

POWER TRIOS

1. JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE
2. NIRVANA
3. RUSH
4. MOTORHEAD
5. CREAM
6. ZZ TOP
7. GRAND FUNK RAILROAD
8. BUDGIE
9. CHEVELLE
10. PRIMUS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 FOUR-PIECE BANDS

1. LED ZEPPELIN
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. METALLICA
4. VAN HALEN
5. KISS
6. MOTLEY CRUE
7. PANTERA
8. QUEEN
9. SLAYER
10. RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 FIVE-PIECE BANDS

1. GUNS N' ROSES
2. AC/DC
3. JUDAS PRIEST
4. DEEP PURPLE
5. AEROSMITH
6. DEF LEPPARD
7. IRON MAIDEN
8. SCORPIONS
9. KORN
10. WHITESNAKE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 JUDAS PRIEST SONGS

1. BREAKING THE LAW
2. VICTIM OF CHANGES
3. YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING
4. PAINKILLER
5. LIVING AFTER MIDNIGHT
6. DIAMONDS & RUST
7. THE HELLION/ELECTRIC EYE
8. JUDAS IS RISING
9. HELL BENT FOR LEATHER
10. HEADING OUT FOR THE HIGHWAY

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LED ZEPPELIN SONGS

1. WHOLE LOTTA LOVE
2. STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
3. DAZED AND CONFUSED
4. ROCK AND ROLL
5. COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN
6. KASHMIR
7. IMMIGRANT SONG
8. BLACK DOG
9. SINCE I'VE BEEN LOVIN' YOU
10. ACHILLES LAST STAND

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOTLEY CRUE SONGS

1. DR. FEELGOOD
2. LOOKS THAT KILL
3. SHOUT AT THE DEVIL
4. GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS
5. KICKSTART MY HEART
6. WILD SIDE
7. HOME SWEET HOME
8. SAME OL SITUATION
9. PRIMAL SCREAM
10. SMOKIN IN THE BOYS ROOM



ALL-TIME TOP 10 VAN HALEN SONGS (DAVE)

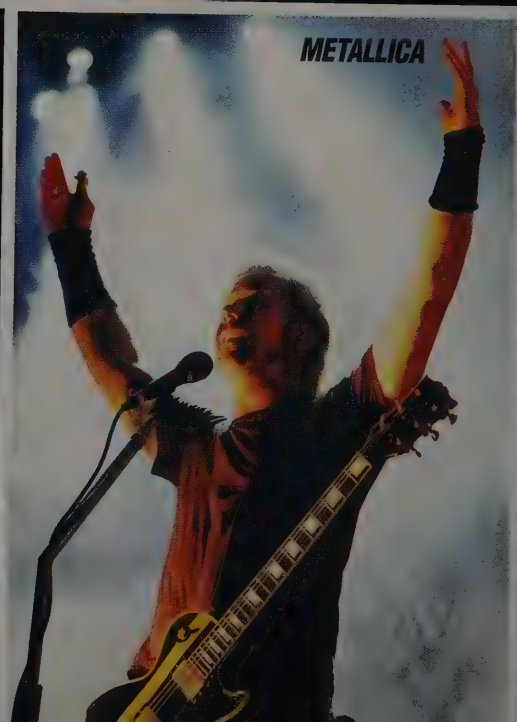
1. AIN'T TALKIN' 'BOUT LOVE
2. RUNNIN' WITH THE DEVIL
3. AND THE CRADLE WILL ROCK
4. ERUPTION
5. UNCHAINED
6. JAMIE'S CRYIN'
7. PANAMA
8. ATOMIC PUNK
9. DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
10. YOU REALLY GOT ME

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VAN HALEN SONGS (SAMMY)

1. WHY CAN'T THIS BE LOVE
2. POUNDCAKE
3. DREAMS
4. RIGHT NOW
5. WHEN IT'S LOVE
6. BEST OF BOTH WORLD
7. FINISH WHAT YA STARTED
8. CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU
7. LOVE WALKS IN
8. GOOD ENOUGH
9. MAN ON A MISSION
10. JUDGEMENT DAY

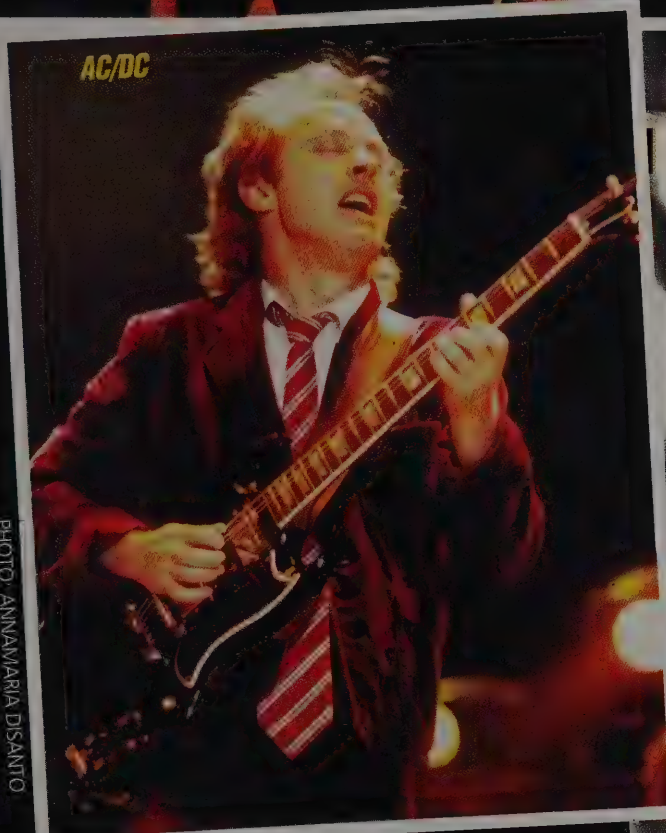
ALL-TIME TOP 10 METALLICA SONGS

1. SEEK AND DESTROY
2. FADE TO BLACK
3. ENTER SANDMAN
4. MASTER OF PUPPETS
5. FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
6. ONE
7. CREEPING DEATH
8. BLACKENED
9. THE FOUR HORSEMEN
10. FUEL





IRON MAIDEN



AC/DC

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



DEF LEPPARD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 IRON MAIDEN SONGS

1. ACE'S HIGH
2. 2 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT
3. THE TROOPER
4. THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST
5. RUNNING FREE
6. THE EVIL THAT MEN DO
7. FLIGHT OF ICARUS
8. RUN TO THE HILLS
9. BE QUICK OR BE DEAD
10. FEAR OF THE DARK

ALL-TIME TOP 10 AC/DC SONGS

1. HIGHWAY TO HELL
2. YOU SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG
3. HELLS BELLS
4. T.N.T.
5. THUNDERSTRUCK
6. FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK
7. LET THERE BE ROCK
8. BACK IN BLACK
9. DIRTY DEEDS DONE
DIRT CHEAP
10. HIGH VOLTAGE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DEF LEPPARD SONGS

1. PHOTOGRAPH
2. ARMAGEDDON IT
3. ROCK BRIGADE
4. POUR SOME SUGAR ON ME
5. WASTED
6. HIGH N' DRY
7. BRINGIN' ON THE HEARTBREAK
8. FOOLIN'
9. LET IT GO
10. LET'S GET ROCKED

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUNS N' ROSES SONGS

1. WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
2. SWEET CHILD O' MINE
3. NOVEMBER RAIN
4. PARADISE CITY
5. NIGHTRAIN
6. MY MICHELLE
7. CIVIL WAR
8. IT'S SO EASY
9. ROCKET QUEEN
10. MR. BROWNSTONE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BLACK SABBATH SONGS**

1. IRON MAN
2. PARANOID
3. WAR PIGS
4. N.I.B.
5. FAIRIES WEAR BOOTS
6. NEON KNIGHTS
7. HOLE IN THE SKY
8. CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE
9. SYMPTOM OF THE UNIVERSE
10. SABBATH BLOODY SABBATH

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
ALICE IN CHAINS SONGS**

1. WORLD?
2. MAN IN THE BOX
3. DOWN IN A HOLE
4. ROOSTER
5. ANGRY CHAM
6. I STAY AWAY
7. GRIND
8. AGAIN
9. NO EXCUSES
10. THEM BONES

ALL-TIME TOP 10 PANTERA SONGS

1. COWBOYS FROM HELL
2. WALK
3. I'M BROKEN
4. REVOLUTION IS MY NAME
5. CEMETERY GATES
6. MOUTH FOR WAR
7. BECOMING
8. THIS LOVE
9. 5 MINUTES ALONE
10. GODDAMN ELECTRIC

ALL-TIME TOP 10 OZZY SONGS

1. CRAZY TRAIN
2. SUICIDE SOLUTION
3. FLYING HIGH AGAIN
4. MR. CROWLEY
5. OVER THE MOUNTAIN
6. BARK AT THE MOON
7. I DON'T KNOW
8. BREAKIN' ALL THE RULES
9. NO MORE TEARS
10. I DON'T WANNA STOP

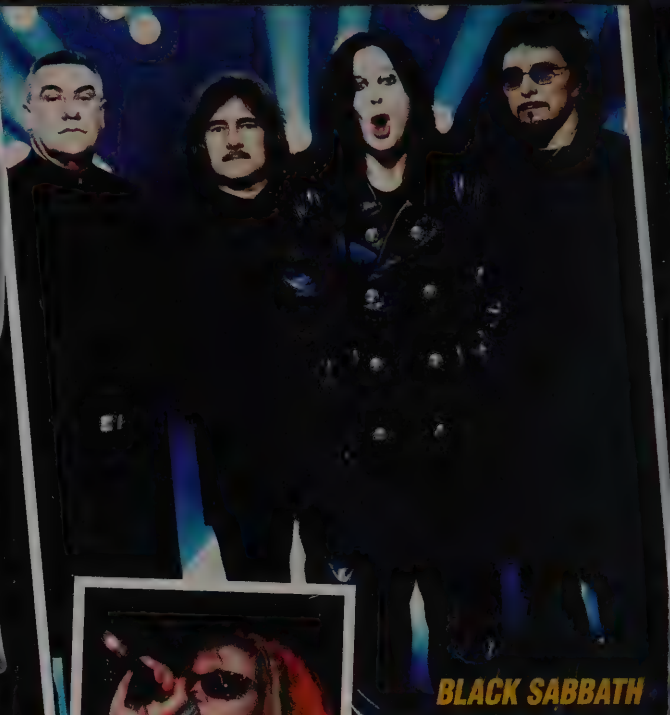
**ALL-TIME TOP 10
DEEP PURPLE SONGS**

1. SMOKE ON THE WATER
2. SPACE TRUCKIN'
3. HIGHWAY STAR
4. MY WOMAN FROM TOKYO
5. SPEED KING
6. BURN
7. CHILD IN TIME
8. STRANGE KIND OF WOMAN
9. PERFECT STRANGERS
10. WHEN A BLIND MAN CRIES

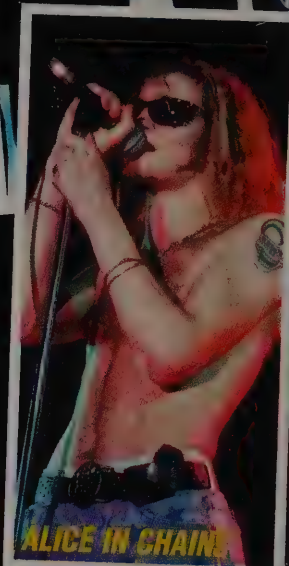
**ALL-TIME TOP 10
AEROSMITH SONGS**

1. DREAM ON
2. SWEET EMOTION
3. WALK THIS WAY
4. BACK IN THE SADDLE
5. LIVIN' ON THE EDGE
6. JADED
7. THE OTHER SIDE
8. JANIE'S GOT A GUN
9. DUDE (LOOKS LIKE A LADY)
10. LOVE IN AN ELEVATOR

38 HIT PARADER



BLACK SABBATH



ALICE IN CHAINS

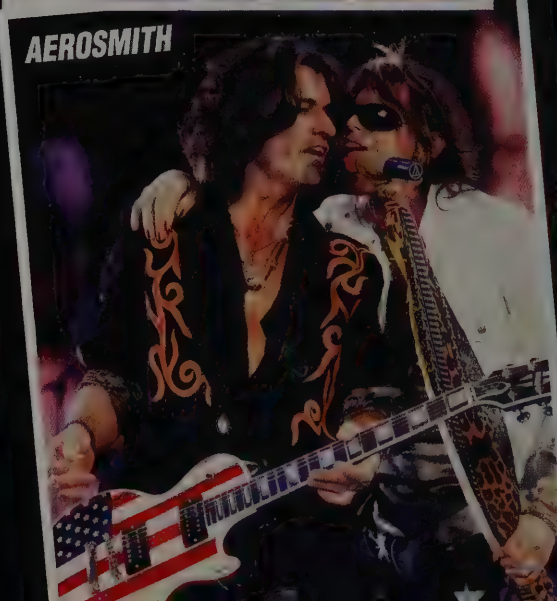


PANTERA

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



DEEP PURPLE



AEROSMITH

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



ANTHRAX



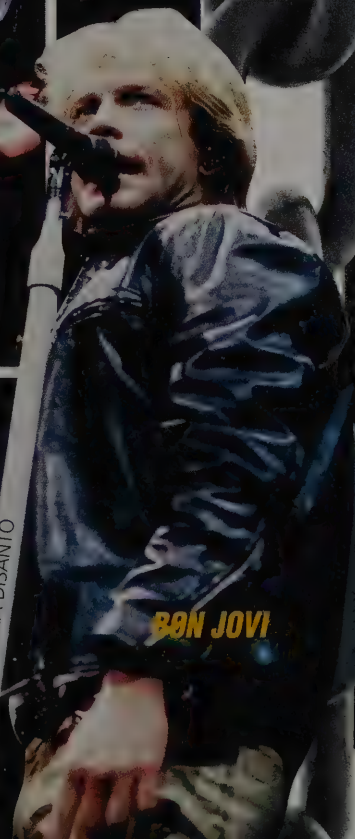
PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

SLIPKNOT



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

BON JOVI



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

BLACK LABEL SOCIETY



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 JIMI HENDRIX SONGS

1. PURPLE HAZE
2. FOXEY LADY
3. ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER
4. RED HOUSE
5. LITTLE WING
6. ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?
7. ANGEL
8. VOODOO CHILD
9. CASTLES MADE OF SAND
10. WIND CRIES MARY

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MEMBERS OF SLIPKNOT

1. 6
2. 3
3. 1
4. 2
5. 5
6. 7
7. 8
8. 0
9. 4
10. OOPS!

ALL-TIME TOP 10 ROCKERS NAMED "DAVE"

1. DAVE MUSTAINE
2. DAVID LEE ROTH
3. DAVE ELLEFSON
4. DAVE NAVARRO
5. DAVID BOWIE
6. DAVE BRYAN
7. DAVID DRAIMAN
8. LONESOME DAVE PEVERETT
9. DAVE KING
10. DAVID CHASTAIN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "A" BANDS

1. AC/DC
2. AEROSMITH
3. ACCEPT
4. ALICE IN CHAINS
5. ANTHRAX
6. A PERFECT CIRCLE
7. ALICE COOPER
8. AFI
9. AUDIOSLAVE
10. AVENGED SEVENFOOD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "B" BANDS

1. BLACK SABBATH
2. BON JOVI
3. BLUE OYSTER CULT
4. BONHAM
5. BOW WOW
6. BUDGIE
7. BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
8. BLUE CHEER
9. BADLANDS
10. BUCKCHERRY

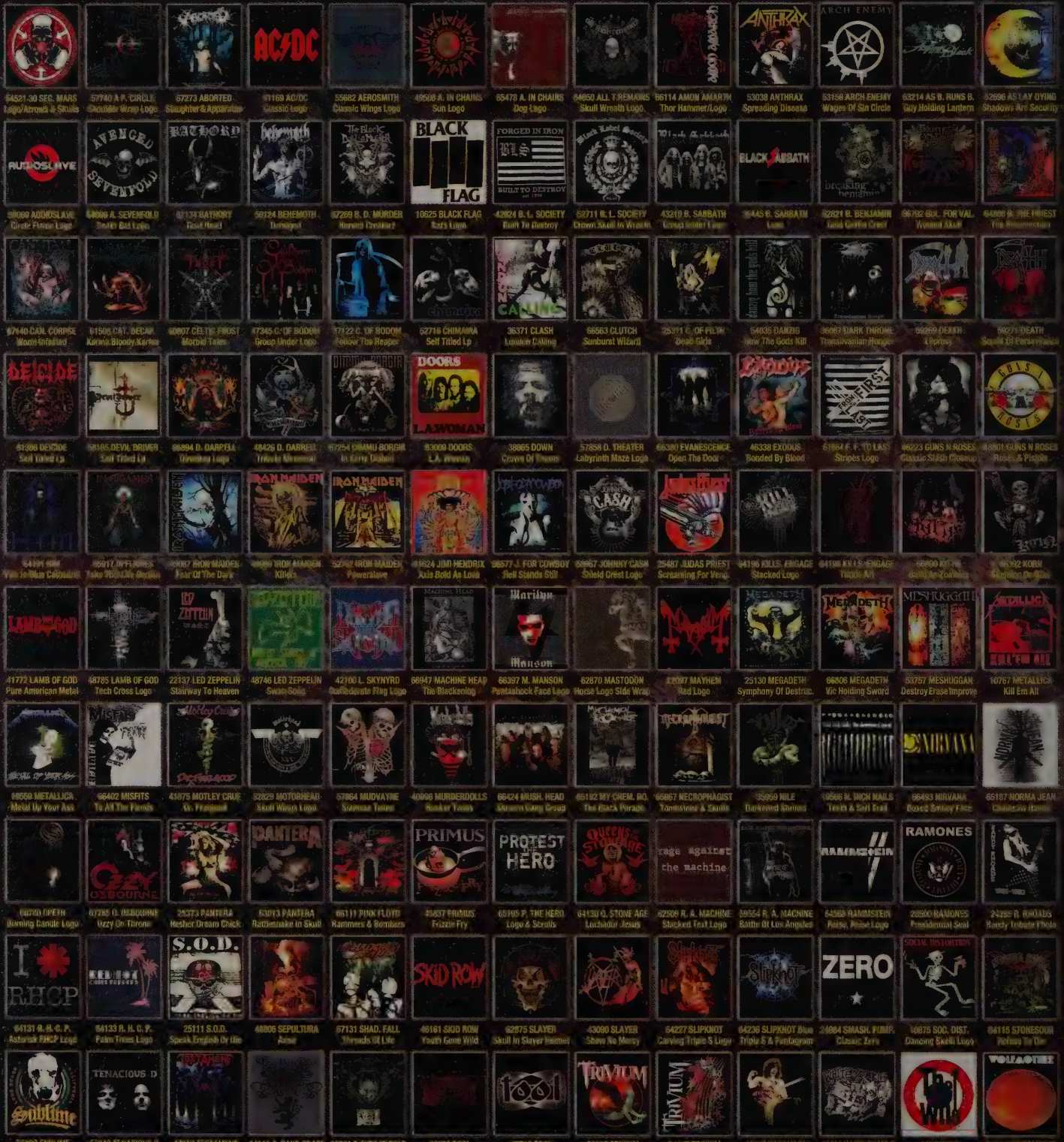
ALL-TIME TOP 10 "C" BANDS

1. THE CULT
2. CRADLE OF FILTH
3. CORROSION OF CONFORMITY
4. COVERDALE/PAGE
5. CLUTCH
6. CHEVELLE
7. COAL CHAMBER
8. CARCASS
9. CELTIC FROST
10. CANDLEMASS

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PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "D" BANDS

1. DEEP PURPLE
2. DIO
3. DANZIG
4. DEF LEPPARD
5. DIMMU BORGIR
6. DOKKEN
7. DAMAGEPLAN
8. DEFTONES
9. DOWN
10. DRAGONFORCE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "F" BANDS

1. FAITH NO MORE
2. FATES WARNING
3. FEAR FACTORY
4. FILTER
5. FASTWAY
6. FRENLEY'S COMET
7. FIGHT
8. FIREBALL MINISTRY
9. FU MANCHU
10. FLOTSAM & JETSAM

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "G" BANDS

1. GUNS N' ROSES
2. GRIM REAPER
3. GREAT WHITE
4. GRAND FUNK RAILROAD
5. GRAVE DIGGER
6. GIRLSCHOOL
7. GALACTIC DOWBOYS
8. GAMMA
9. GILLAN
10. GRAND PRIX

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "H" BANDS

1. JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE
2. HATEBREED
3. HANOI ROCKS
4. HEART
5. HEAVEN AND HELL
6. HED PE
7. HELLOWEEN
8. HELLYEAH
9. HELMET
10. HUMBLE PIE

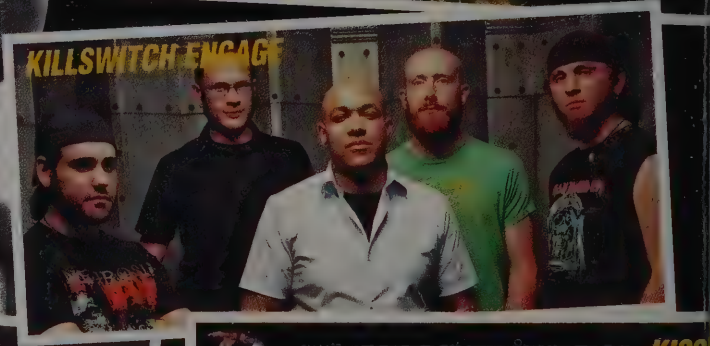
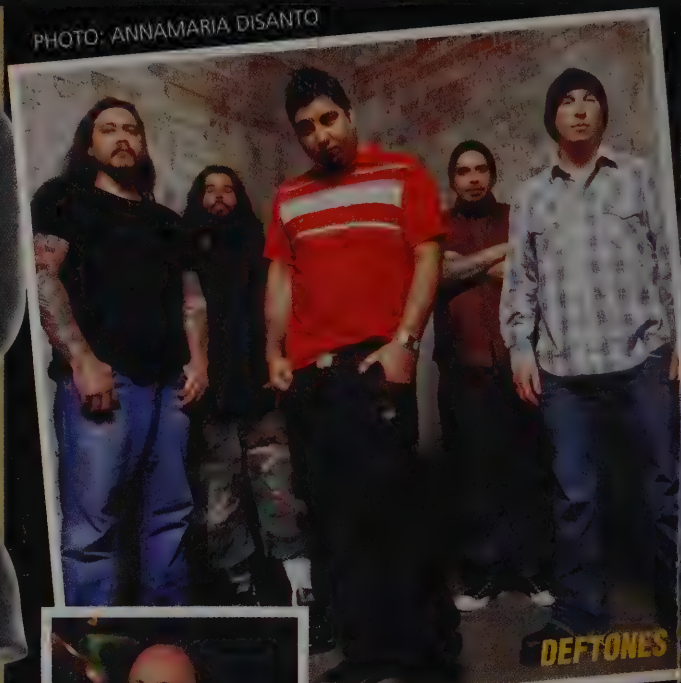
ALL-TIME TOP 10 "I/J" BANDS

1. JUDAS PRIEST
2. IRON MAIDEN
3. JACKYL
4. JANE'S ADDICTION
5. INCUBUS
6. ICED EARTH
7. JET
8. INSTITUTE
9. JUNKYARD
10. JETBOY

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "K" BANDS

1. KISS
2. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
3. KREATOR
4. KORN
5. KING'S X
6. KINGDOM COME
7. KITTIE
8. KING DIAMOND
9. KYUSS
10. KROKUS

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

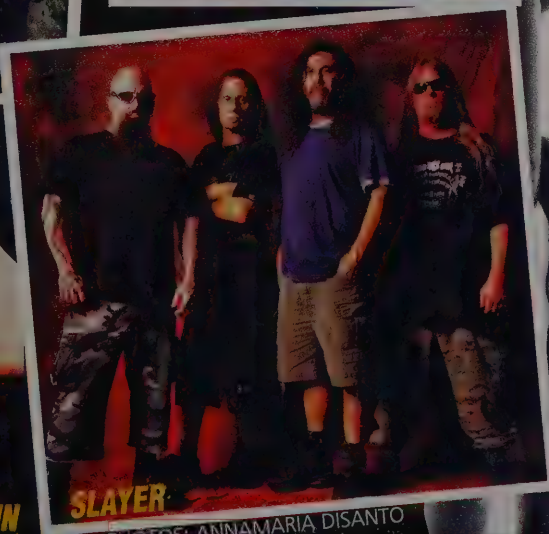
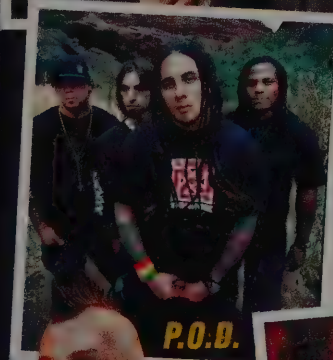


PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO





PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



ALL-TIME TOP 10 "L" BANDS

1. LED ZEPPELIN
2. LAMB OF GOD
3. LOUDNESS
4. LIVING COLOUR
5. LACUNA COIL
6. LILLIAN AXE
7. LIFE OF AGONY
8. LINKIN PARK
9. LIMP BIZKIT
10. L.A. GUNS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "M" BANDS

1. METALLICA
2. MEGADETH
3. MOTLEY CRUE
4. MOTORHEAD
5. MARILYN MANSON
6. MASTODON
7. MUDVAYNE
8. MANOWAR
9. MERCYFUL FATE
10. MESHUGGAH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "N" BANDS

1. NIRVANA
2. NINE INCH NAILS
3. NAPALM DEATH
4. TED NUGENT
5. NUCLEAR ASSAULT
6. NIGHTWISH
7. NUTZ
8. NEUROSIS
9. NAZARETH
10. NEW YORK DOLLS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "P" BANDS

1. PANTERA
2. PEARL JAM
3. POISON
4. P.O.D.
5. PLASMATICS
6. POWERMAN 5000
7. PRONG
8. PRIMUS
9. PUDDLE OF MUDD
10. PRIESTESS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "R" BANDS

1. RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
2. RUSH
3. RAINBOW
4. RAVEN
5. RATT
6. RUNNING WILD
7. RIOT
8. RAVEN
9. ROUGH CUTT
10. RAMMSTEIN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "S" BANDS

1. SLAYER
2. SLIPKNOT
3. SCORPIONS
4. SEPULTURA
5. SKID ROW
6. SEVENDUST
7. SOUNDGARDEN
8. SHADOWS FALL
9. STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
10. SAXON

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "T" BANDS

1. TOOL
2. THIN LIZZY
3. TYPE O NEGATIVE
4. TESTAMENT
5. TESLA
6. TRIUMPH
7. TRIVIUM
8. TYGERS OF PAN TANG
9. TWISTED SISTER
10. TOKYO BLADE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "U/V" BANDS

1. VAN HALEN
2. VELVET REVOLVER
3. URIAH HEEP
4. VENOM
5. UNEARTH
6. UFO
7. UGLY KID JOE
8. VANDENBERG
9. VOIVOD
10. U.D.O.

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "W" BANDS

1. WHITE ZOMBIE
2. WHITESNAKE
3. W.A.S.P.
4. WARRIOR SOUL
5. WOLFSBANE
6. WAYSTED
7. WARRANT
8. WILDHEARTS
9. WILD DOGS
10. WITCHFINDER GENERAL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
3. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
4. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY OSBOURNE
5. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
6. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
7. SLASH, G 'N R/ VELVET REVOLVER
8. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE
9. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
10. GEORGE LYNCH, DOKKEN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS

1. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
2. STEVEN TYLER, AEROSMITH
3. ROB HALFORD, JUDAS PRIEST
4. CHRIS CORNELL, SOUNDGARDEN/AUDIOSLAVE
5. RONNIE JAMES DIO, RAINBOW/ SABBATH
6. BRUCE DICKINSON, IRON MAIDEN
7. FREDDIE MERCURY, QUEEN
8. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
9. AXL ROSE, GUNS 'N ROSES
10. DAVID COVERDALE, WHITESNAKE/DEEP PURPLE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DRUMMERS

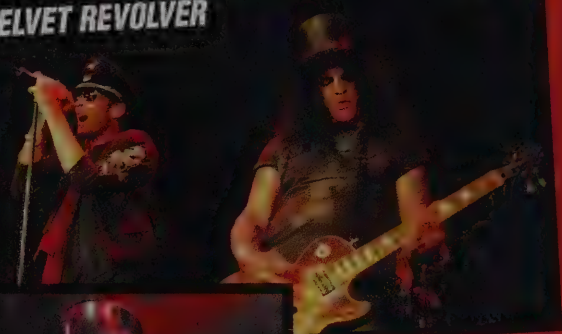
1. JOHN BONHAM, LED ZEPPELIN
2. TOMMY LEE, MOTLEY CRUE
3. ALEX VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
4. MATT SORUM, G 'N R/CLASH/VELVET REVOLVER
5. JOEY JORDISON, SLIPKNOT
6. NEIL PEART, RUSH
7. PETER CRISS, KISS
8. KEITH MOON, THE WHO
9. VINNIE PAUL, PANTERA
10. TOMMY ALDRIDGE, WHITESNAKE

44 HIT PARADER



TOOL

VELVET REVOLVER



PHOTOS: WHIMMATA GIGANTE

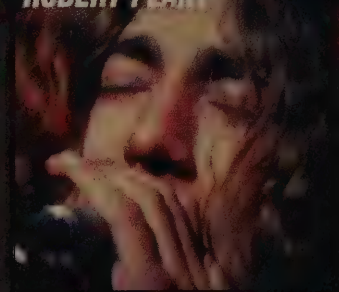


SLASH

ROBERT PLANT



TONY IOMMI



JOHN BONHAM

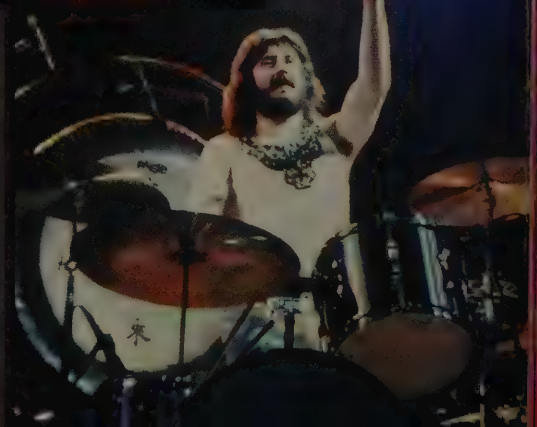


PHOTO: BOB LEAF/FRANK WHITE

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



NIKKI SIXX



CRADLE OF FILTH

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



CELTIC FROST



ROB HALFORD



LITA FORD



AMY LEE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BASSISTS

1. TOM ARAYA, SLAYER
2. GENE SIMMONS, KISS
3. NIKKI SIXX, MOTLEY CRUE
4. JOHN PAUL JONES, LED ZEPPELIN
5. GEEZER BUTLER, BLACK SABBATH
6. DUFF McKAGAN, G 'N' R/ VELVET REVOLVER
7. MICHAEL ANTHONY, VAN HALEN
8. GEDDY LEE, RUSH
9. BILLY SHEEHAN, MR. BIG
10. FIELDY, KORN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLACK METAL STARS

1. KING DIAMOND, MERCYFUL FATE
2. TOM G. WARRIOR, CELTIC FROST
3. CHUCK SCHULDINER, DEATH
4. LEE DORIAN, CATHEDRAL
5. DANNI FILTH, CRADLE OF FILTH
6. CYKO MYKO, SUICIDAL TENDENCIES
7. ISHAHN, EMPEROR
8. VARG VIKERNES, BURZUM
9. JENS KIDMAN, MESHUGGAH
10. CHRIS BARNES, SIX FEET UNDER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BALD STARS

1. ROB HALFORD, JUDAS PRIEST
2. KERRY KING, SLAYER
3. SCOTT IAN, ANTHRAX
4. SCOOTER WARD, COLD
5. DAVID DRAIMAN, DISTURBED
6. AARON LEWIS, STAINED
7. KEVIN DUBROW, QUIET RIOT
8. HOWARD JONES, KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
9. EVAN SEINFELD, BIOHAZARD
10. JENS KIDMAN, MESHUGGAH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 TATTOOED STARS

1. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
2. ANTHONY KEIDIS, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
3. PHILIP ANSELMO, PANTERA
4. NIKKI SIXX, MOTLEY CRUE
5. LEMMY, MOTORHEAD
6. ROB HALFORD, JUDAS PRIEST
7. EVAN SEINFELD, BIOHAZARD
8. SULLY ERNA, GODSMACK
9. JUSTIN HAWKINS, DARKNESS
10. ZACKY VENGEANCE, AVENGED SEVENFOLD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 FEMALE STARS

1. LITA FORD
2. COURTNEY LOVE
3. AMY LEE, EVANESCENCE
4. MORGAN LANDER, KITTIE
5. JOAN JETT
6. ANGELA GOSSOW, ARCH ENEMY
7. CHRISTIAN SCIABBIA, LACUNA COIL
8. ANN WILSON, HEART
9. DORO PESCH, DORO
10. OTEP SHAMAYA, OTEP

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GRUNGE STARS

1. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
2. EDDIE VEDDER, PEARL JAM
3. LAYNE STALEY, ALICE IN CHAINS
4. CHRIS CORNELL, SOUNDGARDEN
5. ANDREW WOOD, MOTHER LOVE BONE
6. SCOTT WEILAND, STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
7. JERRY CANTRELL, ALICE IN CHAINS
8. STONE GOSARD, PEARL JAM
9. ROBERT DeLEO, STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
10. KIM THAYLL, SOUNDGARDEN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL STARS

1. TOM ARAYA, SLAYER
2. JAMES HETFIELD, METALLICA
3. DAVE MUSTAINE, MEGADETH
4. SCOTT IAN, ANTHRAX
5. LARS ULRICH, METALLICA
6. KERRY KING, SLAYER
7. CHUCK BILLY, TESTAMENT
8. DENIS BELANGER, VENOM
9. PAIGE HAMILTON, HELMET
10. DEVIN TOWNSEND, STRAPPING YOUNG LAD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 STARS OF THE '60S

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. ERIC CLAPTON, CREAM
3. JEFF BECK, YARDBIRDS/ JEFF BECK GROUP
4. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
5. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
6. KEITH RICHARDS, ROLLING STONES
7. LESLIE WEST, MOUNTAIN
8. ALICE COOPER
9. MICK JAGGER, ROLLING STONES
10. ROD STEWART, JEFF BECK GROUP

ALL-TIME TOP 10 STARS OF THE '70S

1. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
2. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
3. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
4. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE
5. STEVEN TYLER, AEROSMITH
6. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
7. FREDDIE MERCURY, QUEEN
8. ALICE COOPER
9. PAUL STANLEY, KISS
10. TED NUGENT

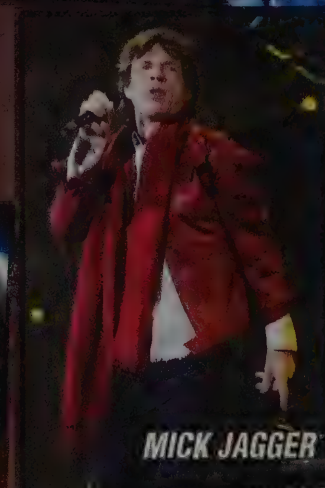
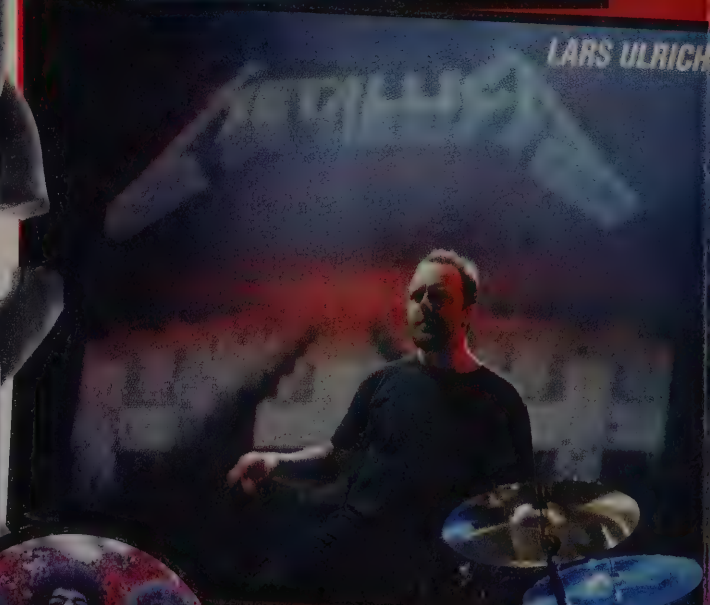
ALL-TIME TOP 10 STARS OF THE '80S

1. AXL ROSE, GUNS 'N ROSE
2. DAVID LEE ROTH, VAN HALEN
3. NIKKI SIXX, MOTELY CRUE
4. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
5. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
6. JON BON JOVI, BON JOVI
7. DAVID COVERDALE, WHITESNAKE
8. JAMES HETFIELD, METALLICA
9. JOE ELLIOTT, DEF LEPPARD
10. BRUCE DICKINSON, IRON MAIDEN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 STARS OF THE '90S

1. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
2. EDDIE VEDDER, PEARL JAM
3. CHRIS CORNELL, SOUNDGARDEN
4. TRENT REZNOR, NINE INCH NAILS
5. MARILYN MANSON
6. LAYNE STALEY, ALICE IN CHAINS
7. JONATHAN DAVIS, KORN
8. SCOTT WEILAND, STP
9. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
10. ROR ZOMBIE, WHITE ZOMBIE

46 HIT PARADER



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISEÑO

NIKKI SIXX



AUDIOSLAVE

DAVID DRAIMAN

SOAD

FREDDY
MERCURY

JEFF KEITH

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

GENE SIMMONS

TOP 10 STARS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. CHRIS CORNELL, AUDIOSLAVE
2. COREY TAYLOR, SLIPKNOT
3. DAVID DRAIMAN, DISTURBED
4. CHINO MORENO, THE DEFTONES
5. AARON LEWIS, STAINED
6. CHESTER BENNINGTON, LINKIN PARK
7. SERJ TANKIAN, SYSTEM OF A DOWN
8. FRED DURST, LIMP BIZKIT
9. SULLY ERNA, GODSMACK
10. JUSTIN HAWKINS, THE DARKNESS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARD ROCK SHOWMEN

1. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
2. AXL ROSE, GUNS 'N ROSES
3. MARILYN MANSON
4. FREDDIE MERCURY, QUEEN
5. ALICE COOPER
6. DEE SNIDER, TWISTED SISTER
7. TOMMY LEE, MOTLEY CRUE
8. BLACKIE LAWLESS, W.A.S.P.
9. SCOTT WEILAND, STP
10. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAN, TOOL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST IMPORTANT ROCKERS BORN IN ISRAEL

1. GENE SIMMONS
2. GENE SIMMONS
3. GENE SIMMONS
4. GENE SIMMONS
5. GENE SIMMONS
6. GENE SIMMONS
7. GENE SIMMONS
8. GENE SIMMONS
9. GENE SIMMONS
10. GENE SIMMONS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 THINNEST STARS

1. STEVEN TYLER, AEROSMITH
2. RANDY RHODS, OZZY OSBOURNE
3. MARILYN MANSON
4. PERRY FARRELL, JANE'S ADDICTION
5. CHESTER BENNINGTON, LINKIN PARK
6. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
7. BRETT MICHAELS, POISON
8. TOMMY LEE, MOTLEY CRUE
9. SCOTT WEILAND, STP/VELVET REVOLVER
10. JEFF KEITH, TESLA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SHORTEST STARS

1. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
2. RONNIE JAMES DIO
3. UDO DIRKSCHNEIDER, ACCEPT
4. BRUCE DICKINSON, IRON MAIDEN
5. KLAUS MEINE, SCORPIONS
6. SCOTT IAN, ANTHRAX
7. LARS ULRICH, METALLICA
8. SULLY ERNA, GODSMACK
9. TRENT REZNOR, NINE INCH NAILS
10. GLENN DANZIG, DANZIG

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DECEASED STARS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. JOHN BONHAM
3. BON SCOTT
4. KURT COBAIN
5. LAYNE STALEY
6. RANDY RHODS
7. STEVE CLARK
8. ANDREW WOOD
9. FREDDIE MERCURY
10. PHIL LYNOTT

ALL-TIME TOP 10 UNDER THE RADAR STARS

1. KERRY KING, SLAYER
2. LEMMY, MOTORHEAD
3. JAMEY JASTA, HATEBREED
4. GLENN DANZIG, DANZIG
5. MAX CAVALERA, SEPULTURA/SOULFLY
6. CHINO MORENO, DEFTONES
7. KING DIAMOND, MERCYFUL FATE
8. DAVEY HAVOK, AFI
9. LEE DORIAN, CATHEDRAL
10. PETER STEELE, TYPE O NEGATIVE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DREADLOCKED STARS

1. MAX CAVALERA, SEPULTURA/SOULFLY
2. BRIAN "HEAD" WELCH, KORN
3. LAJON WITHERSPOON, SEVENDUST
4. BRIAN FAIR, SHADOWS FALL
5. HR, BAD BRAINS
6. KARYN CRISIS, CRISIS
7. BENJY, SKINHEAD
8. ROB ZOMBIE
9. CHRIS BARNES, SIX FEET UNDER
10. CRISTIAN MARCHADO, ILL NINO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DRUMMERS (ALTERNATE OPINION)

1. JOHN BONHAM
2. NEIL PEART
3. LARS ULRICH
4. TOMMY LEE
5. VINNY PAUL
6. ALEX VAN HALEN
7. GINGER BAKER
8. JOEY KRAMER
9. BILL WARD
10. NICKO McBRAIN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BASSISTS (ALTERNATE OPINION)

1. STEVE HARRIS
2. BILLY SHEEHAN
3. GENE SIMMONS
4. GEDDY LEE
5. GEEZER BUTLER
6. JOHN PAUL JONES
7. CLIFF BURTON
8. MICHAEL ANTHONY
9. TOM ARAYA
10. RUDY SARZO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL BASSISTS

1. TOM ARAYA
2. CLIFF BURTON
3. DAVE ELLEFSON
4. JASON NEWSTED
5. GEEZER BUTLER
6. STEVE HARRIS
7. PETER STEELE
8. RYAN MARTINIE
9. TROY SAUNDERS
10. ROBERT TRUJILLO

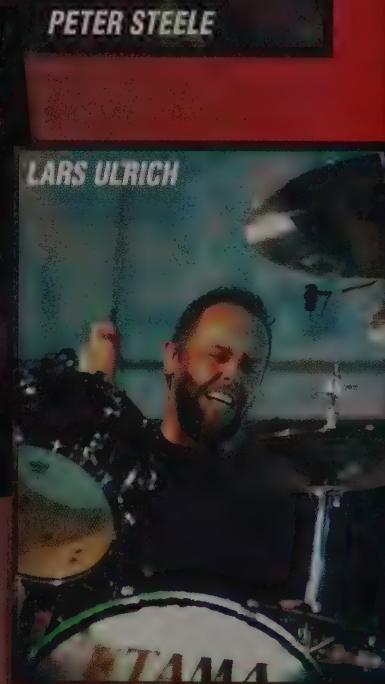
ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL DRUMMERS

1. VINNY PAUL
2. LARS ULRICH
3. BILL WARD
4. THOMAS HAAKE
5. DAVE LOMBARDI
6. CHARLIE BENANTE
7. NICK BARKER
8. SCOTT TRAVIS
9. VINNIE APPICE
10. NICK MENZA

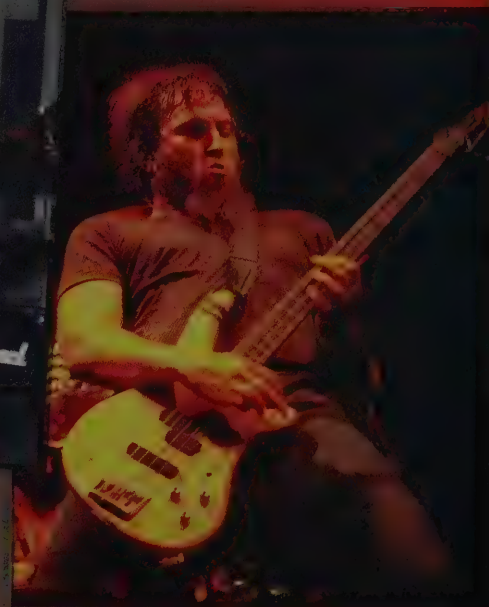
48 HIT PARADER



PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

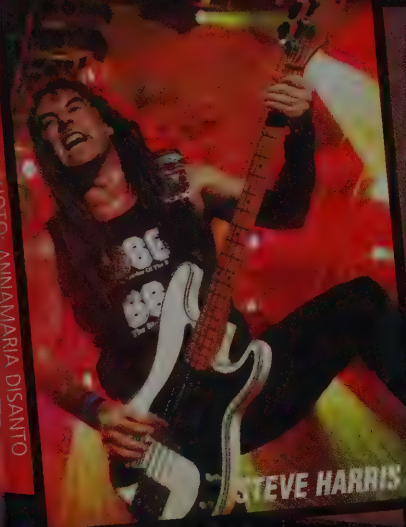


PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO





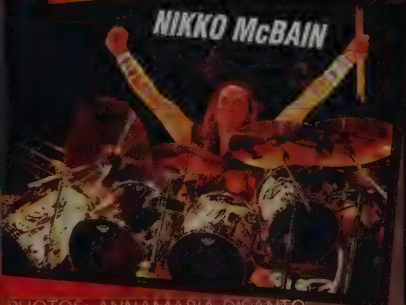
TOMMY LEE



STEVE HARRIS



VAN HALEN/ANTHONY



NIKKO McBAIN



FELIX PAPPALARDI

PHOTO: LAURENS VAN HOUTEN / FRANK WHITE PHOTO

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



TOM ARAYA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL DRUMMERS

1. TOMMY LEE
2. MATT SORUM
3. TOMMY ALDRIDGE
4. TICO TORRES
5. ERIC CARR
6. RICK ALLEN
7. RANDY CASTILLO
8. BLAS ELIAS
9. RIKKI ROCKETT
10. MICK BROWN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL BASSISTS

1. BILLY SHEEHAN
2. JEFF PILSON
3. MICHAEL ANTHONY
4. RUDY SARZO
5. GENE SIMMONS
6. NIKKI SIXX
7. DUFF McKAGAN
8. RICK SAVAGE
9. ERIC BRITTINGHAM
10. JAMES LOMENZO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BASS/DRUM PAIRS

1. BONHAM/JONES, LED ZEPPELIN
2. WARD/BUTLER, BLACK SABBATH
3. KRAMER/HAMILTON, AEROSMITH
4. BAKER/BRUCE, CREAM
5. ULRICH/BURTON, METALLICA
6. VAN HALEN/ANTHONY, VAN HALEN
7. JORDISON/GRAY, SLIPKNOT
8. LEE/PEART, RUSH
9. LOMBARDO/ARAYA, SLAYER
10. McBRAIN/HARRIS, IRON MAIDEN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INNOVATIVE DRUMMERS

1. NEIL PEART
2. TOMMY LEE
3. DANNY CAREY
4. TIM ALEXANDER
5. ROD MORGENSTEIN
6. CARMINE APPICE
7. COZY POWELL
8. TOMMY ALDRIDGE
9. JOSH FREESE
10. MATT CAMERON

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BASSISTS OF THE '60S

1. JACK BRUCE
2. FELIX PAPPALARDI
3. ROGER GLOVER
4. JOHN ENTWISTLE
5. JOHN PAUL JONES
6. RONNIE LANE
7. ANDY FRASER
8. TIM BOGERT
9. NOEL REDDING
10. JIMMY PAGE (YARDBIRDS)

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DRUMMERS OF THE '60S

1. KEITH MOON
2. GINGER BAKER
3. JOHN BONHAM
4. MITCH MITCHELL
5. CORKY LAINGE
6. COZY POWELL
7. SIMON KIRKE
8. IAN PAICE
9. CARL PALMER
10. CARMINE APPICE



NIRVANA



DEFTONES



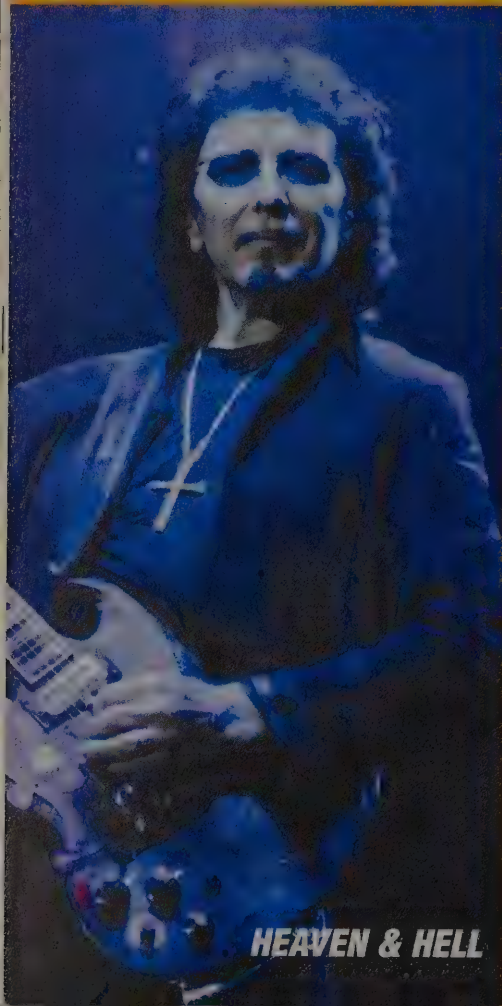
WOLFMOOTHER



SEVENDUST



AEROSMITH



HEAVEN & HELL



KILLSWITCH ENGAGE



PANTERA



SLAYER



CRADLE OF FILTH



MEGADETH



VELVET REVOLVER



DIMMU BORGIR



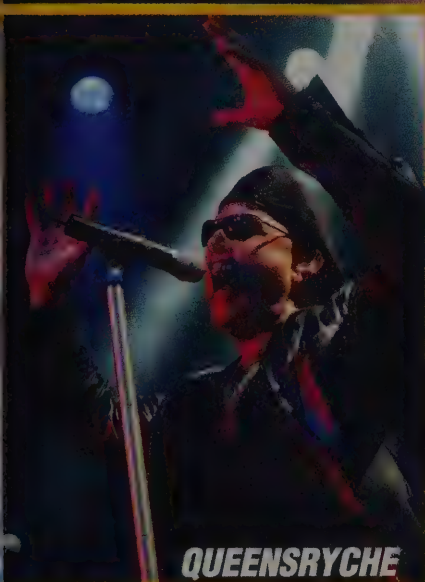
EVANESCENCE



ANTHRAX



LAMB OF GOD



QUEENSRYCHE



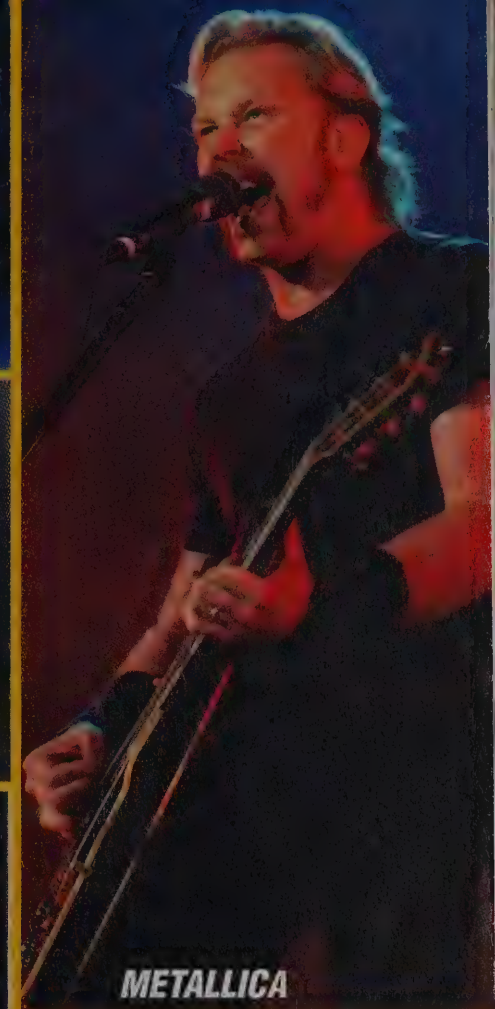
AVENGED SEVENFOLD



ROB ZOMBIE



SLIPKNOT



METALLICA



KORN



ALL PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BASSISTS OF THE '70S**

1. JOHN PAUL JONES
2. GEEZER BUTLER
3. ROGER GLOVER
4. JOHN DEACON
5. IAN HILL
6. GENE SIMMONS
7. MEL SCHACTER
8. TOM HAMILTON
9. MICHAEL ANTHONY
10. GREG RIDLEY

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
DRUMMERS OF THE '70S**

1. JOHN BONHAM
2. SIMON KIRKE
3. JOEY KRAMER
4. ROGER TAYLOR
5. IAN PAICE
6. ALEX VAN HALEN
7. CORKY LAING
8. PETER CRISSE
9. FRANK BEARD
10. JERRY SHIRLEY

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BASSISTS OF THE '80S**

1. CLIFF BURTON
2. STEVE HARRIS
3. TOM ARAYA
4. DUFF MCKAGAN
5. BOBBY DALL
6. TOM HAMILTON
7. REX BROWN
8. DAVE ELLEFSON
9. NIKKI SIXX
10. RUDY SARZO

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
DRUMMERS OF THE '80S**

1. TOMMY LEE
2. NEIL PEART
3. VINNIE PAUL
4. LARS ULRICH
5. FRANKIE BANALI
6. MATT SORUM
7. TICO TORRES
8. ERIC SINGER
9. VINNIE APPICE
10. DAVE LOMBARDO

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BASSISTS OF THE '90S**

1. SHAVO ODADJIAN
2. PAUL GRAY
3. JUSTIN CHANCELLOR
4. TIM CUMMERFORD
5. FLEA
6. FIELDY
7. MIKE INEZ
8. JASON NEWSTED
9. JEFF AMENT
10. ROB DeLEO

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
DRUMMERS OF THE '90S**

1. JOEY JORDISON
2. DANEY CAREY
3. JOHN BOLMAYAN
4. LARS ULRICH
5. SEAN KINNEY
6. DAVID SILVERIA
7. MORGAN ROSE
8. JOSH FREEZE
9. BRAD WILK
10. SHANNON LARKIN

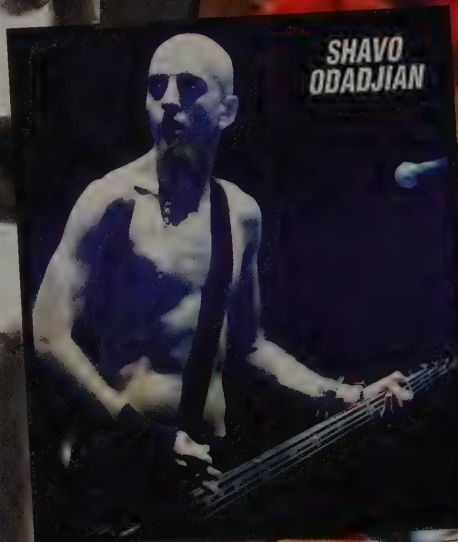
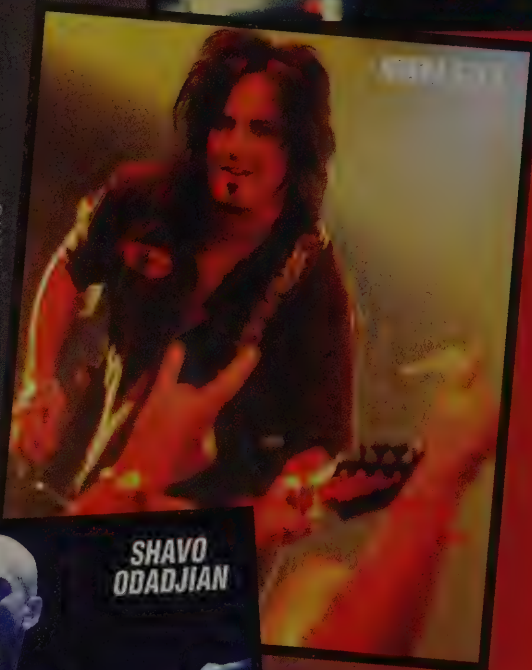


JOHN PAUL JONES



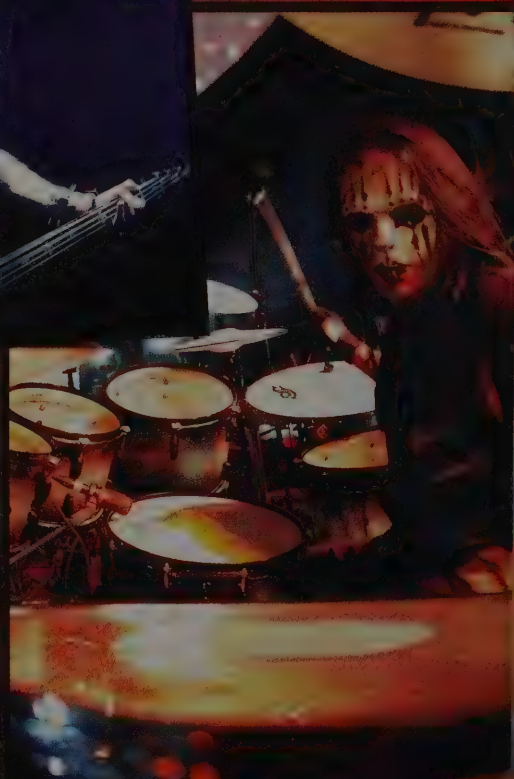
JOHN BONHAM

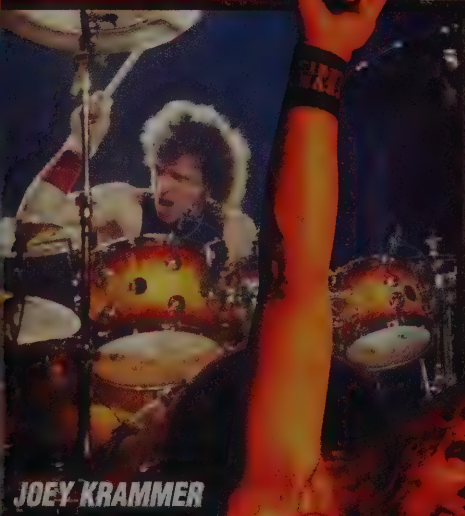
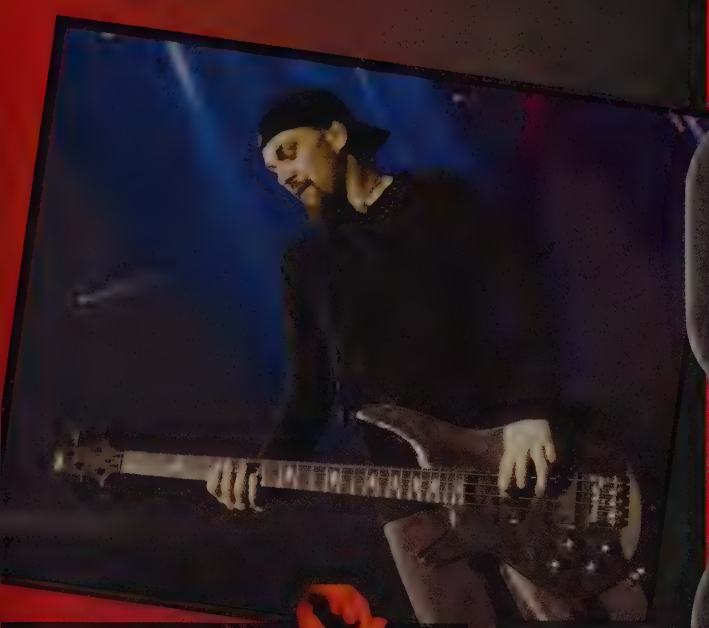
PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



**SHAVO
ODADJIAN**

JOEY JORDISON





ALL PHOTOS:
ANNAMARIA DISANTO

TOP 10 BASSISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. TIM CUMMORFORD
2. CHI CHING
3. BRANN DAILOR
4. MIKE D'ANTONIO
5. TROY SAUNDERS
6. ROBERT TRUJILLO
7. CHAD GRAY
8. ROBBIE MERRILL
9. JON WYSOCKI
10. JOHN CAMPBELL

TOP 10 DRUMMERS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. MATT McDONOUGH
2. JOEY JORDISON
3. JOHNNY APRIL
4. MIKE WENGREN
5. ABE CUNNINGHAM
6. CHRIS ADLER
7. DAVID SILVERIA
8. MATT BYRNE
9. CRISTIANO MOZZATI
10. THE REVEREND

ALL-TIME TOP 10 EUROPEAN BASSISTS

1. STEVE HARRIS
2. JOHN PAUL JONES
3. GEEZER BUTLER
4. LEMMY
5. ROGER GLOVER
6. PETE WAY
7. JACK BRUCE
8. RICK SAVAGE
9. JOHN DEACON
10. PHIL LYNOTT

ALL-TIME TOP 10 EUROPEAN DRUMMERS

1. JOHN BONHAM
2. SIMON KIRKE
3. LARS ULRICH
4. GINGER BAKER
5. RICK ALLEN
6. THOMAS HAAKE
7. NICKO McBRAIN
8. IAN PAICE
9. SIMON WRIGHT
10. MITCH MITCHELL

ALL TIME TOP 10 AMERICAN DRUMMERS

1. TOMMY LEE
2. VINNIE PAUL
3. ALEX VAN HALEN
4. SCOTT TRAVIS
5. JOEY KRAMER
6. TICO TORRES
7. MATT CAMERON
8. DAVE LOMBARDO
9. JOHN TEMPESTA
10. DAVE GROHL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 AMERICAN BASSISTS

1. BILLY SHEEHAN
2. GENE SIMMONS
3. FLEA
4. TOM HAMILTON
5. NIKKI SIXX
6. MICHAEL ANTHONY
7. ROBERT TRUJILLO
8. SHAVO ODADJIAN
9. JUSTIN CHANCELLOR
10. TOM ARAYA

**ALL-TIME TOP 5 DECEASED
BASSISTS/DRUMMERS**

1. JOHN BONHAM
2. CLIFF BURTON
3. PHIL LYNOTT
4. KEITH MOON
5. ERIC CARR

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
IN-CONCERT DRUMMERS**

1. TOMMY LEE
2. JOHN BONHAM
3. TOMMY ALDRIDGE
4. ALEX VAN HALEN
5. PETER CRISS
6. NEIL PEART
7. VINNIE PAUL
8. KEITH MOON
9. DAVE LOMBARDO
10. JOEY JORDISON

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
IN-CONCERT BASSISTS**

1. GENE SIMMONS
2. JOHN ENTWISTLE
3. JOHN PAUL JONES
4. GEEZER BUTLER
5. CLIFF BURTON
6. DUFF McKAGAN
7. CHRIS SQUIRE
8. STEVE HARRIS
9. BILLY SHEEHAN
10. GEDDY LEE

**ALL-TIME TO 10 MOST
INFLUENTIAL DRUMMERS**

1. JOHN BONHAM
2. NEIL PEART
3. LARS ULRICH
4. GINGER BAKER
5. BILL WARD
6. TOMMY LEE
7. VINNIE PAUL
8. PETER CRISS
9. CHARLIE WATTS
10. COZY POWELL

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
MOST INFLUENTIAL BASSISTS**

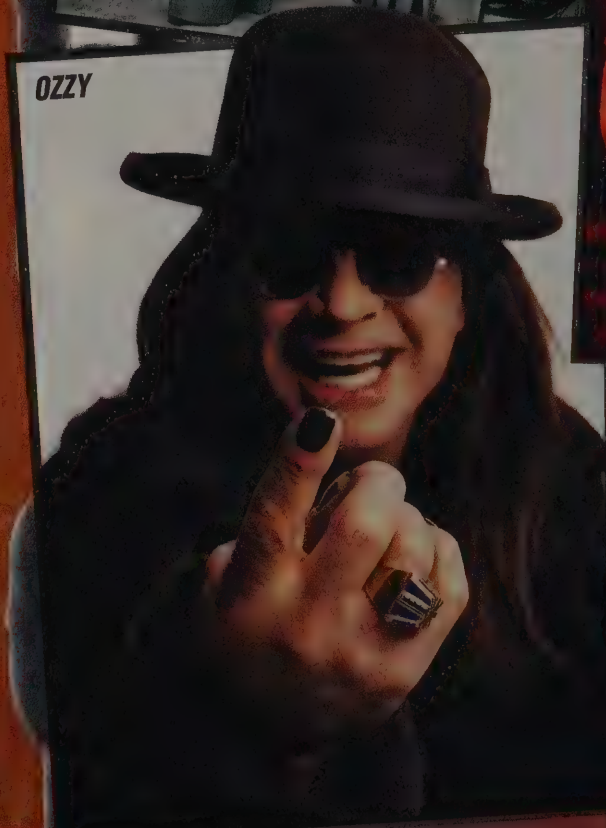
1. GEEZER BUTLER
2. JOHN PAUL JONES
3. GENE SIMMONS
4. CLIFF BURTON
5. GEDDY LEE
6. JACK BRUCE
7. NIKKI SIXX
8. STEVE HARRIS
9. DUFF McKAGAN
10. JEFF AMENT

**ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS
(ALTERNATE OPINION)**

1. OZZY OSBOURNE
2. ROB HALFORD
3. PHILIP ANSELMO
4. ROBERT PLANT
5. RONNIE JAMES DIO
6. JONATHAN DAVIS
7. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAN
8. ALICE COOPER
9. CHRIS CORNELL
10. SERJ TANKIAN



OZZY



ALICE COOPER

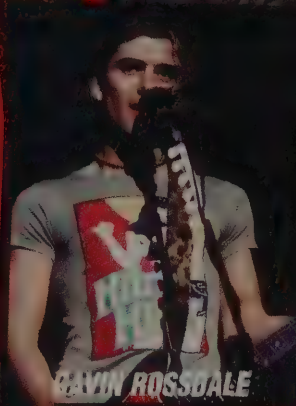




DANI FILTH



BRET MICHAELS
ALICE COOPER



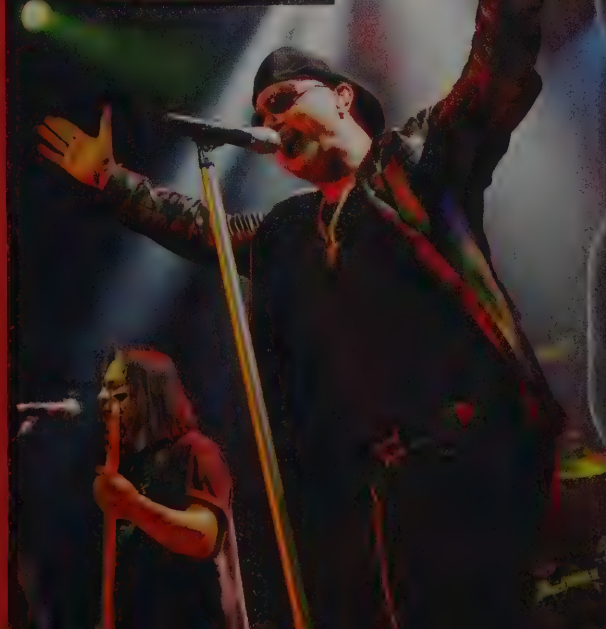
GAVIN ROSSDALE



GEOFF TATE



CHRIS CORNELL



ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLACK METAL VOCALISTS

1. KING DIAMOND, MERCYFUL FATE
2. SHAGRATH, DIMMU BORGIR
3. BARNEY GREENWAY, NAPALM DEATH
4. ISAHN, EMPEROR
5. CHRIS BARNES, SIX FEET UNDER
6. GEORGE FISHER, CANNIBAL CORPSE
7. GLENN BENTON, DEICIDE
8. DANI FILTH, CRADLE OF FILTH
9. DAVID VINCENT, MORBID ANGEL
10. JOHN TARDY, OBITUARY

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL VOCALISTS

1. BRET MICHAELS
2. SEBASTIAN BACH
3. VINCE NEIL
4. JON BON JOVI
5. MARK SLAUGHTER
6. DAVID COVERDALE
7. STEPHEN PEARCY
8. DON DOKKEN
9. GARY CHERONE
10. JOE ELLIOTT

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GRUNGE VOCALISTS

1. CHRIS CORNELL
2. LAYNE STALEY
3. EDDIE VEDDER
4. KURT COBAIN
5. SCOTT WEILAND
6. ANDREW WOOD
7. NEIL YOUNG
8. GAVIN ROSSDALE
9. DANIEL JOHNS
10. COURTNEY LOVE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SHOCK ROCK VOCALISTS

1. ALICE COOPER
2. MARILYN MANSON
3. ROB ZOMBIE
4. DEE SNIDER
5. PAUL STANLEY
6. GENE SIMMONS
7. KING DIAMOND
8. COREY TAYLOR
9. CHAD GRAY
10. TILL LINDEMANN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST TALENTED VOCALISTS

1. GEOFF TATE
2. ROB HALFORD
3. PAUL RODGERS
4. CHRIS CORNELL
5. ROBERT PLANT
6. RONNIE JAMES DIO
7. FREDDIE MERCURY
8. SAMMY HAGAR
9. STEVE MARRIOTT
10. SCOTT WEILAND

ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL VOCALISTS

1. ROB HALFORD, JUDAS PRIEST
2. PHILIP ANSELMO, PANTERA
3. TOM ARAYA, SLAYER
4. CHUCK BILLY, TESTAMENT
5. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
6. KEITH CAPUTO, LIFE OF AGONY
7. DAVE MUSTAINE, MEGADETH
8. MAX CAVALERA, SEPULTURA
9. COREY TAYLOR, SLIPKNOT
10. JOHN BUSH, ANTHRAX

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SEXY VOCALISTS

1. ROBERT PLANT
2. STEVEN TYLER
3. LITA FORD
4. JON BON JOVI
5. VINCE NEIL
6. CHRIS CORNELL
7. GAVIN ROSSDALE
8. JOEY TEMPEST
9. PAUL STANLEY
10. SEBASTIAN BACH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLOND VOCALISTS

1. ROBERT PLANT
2. VINCE NEIL
3. ROGER DALTRY
4. JON BON JOVI
5. DAVID LEE ROTH
6. JAMES HETFIELD
7. KURT COBAIN
8. BRETT MICHAELS
9. UDO DIRKSCHNEIDER
10. DEE SNIDER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE '60S

1. IAN GILLAN
2. ROBERT PLANT
3. JACK BRUCE
4. ALICE COOPER
5. JIMI HENDRIX
6. ROD STEWART
7. MICK JAGGER
8. LESLIE WEST
9. MARK FARNER
10. KEITH RELF

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE '70S

1. ROBERT PLANT
2. OZZY OSBOURNE
3. STEVEN TYLER
4. DAVID LEE ROTH
5. FREDDIE MERCURY
6. PAUL RODGERS
7. SAMMY HAGAR
8. GIDDY LEE
9. ROB HALFORD
10. DAVID BYRON

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE '80S

1. ROB HALFORD
2. BRUCE DICKINSON
3. OZZY OSBOURNE
4. DAVID COVERDALE
5. VINCE NEIL
6. BRETT MICHAELS
7. GEOFF TATE
8. RONNIE JAMES DIO
9. TOM ARAYA
10. JON BON JOVI

ALL-TIME TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE '90S

1. AXL ROSE
2. CHRIS CORNELL
3. LAYNE STALEY
4. EDDIE VEDDER
5. KURT COBAIN
6. JAMES HETFIELD
7. JONATHAN DAVIS
8. MARILYN MANSON
9. TRENT REZNOR
10. DAVE MUSTAINE

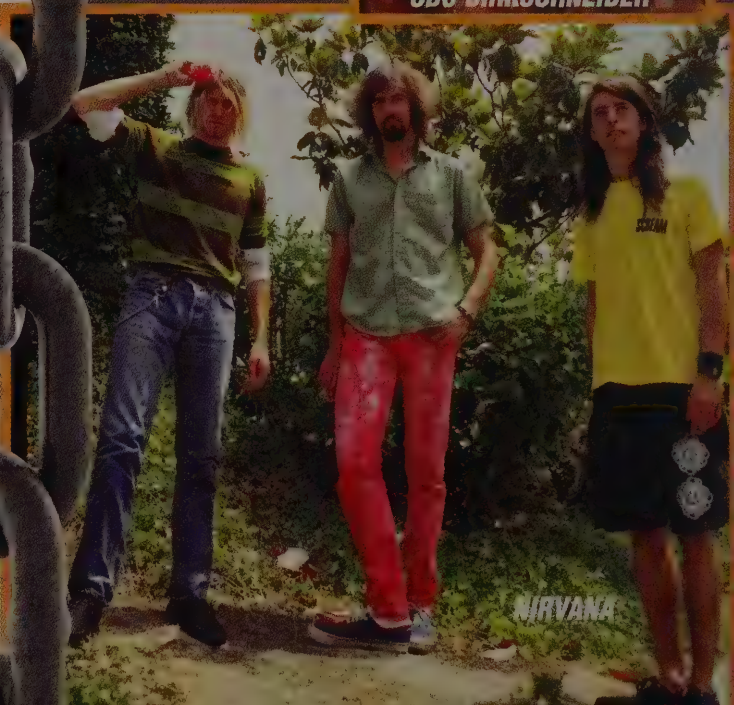
56 HIT PARADER



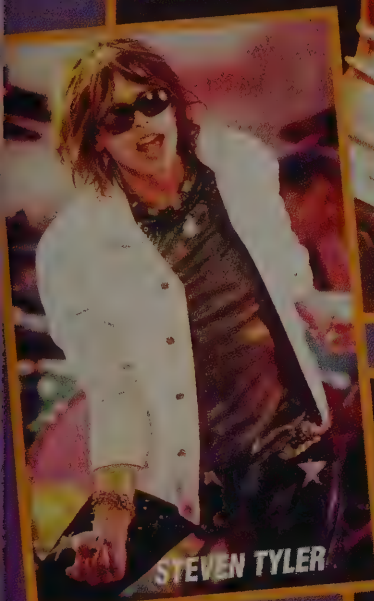
ROBERT PLANT



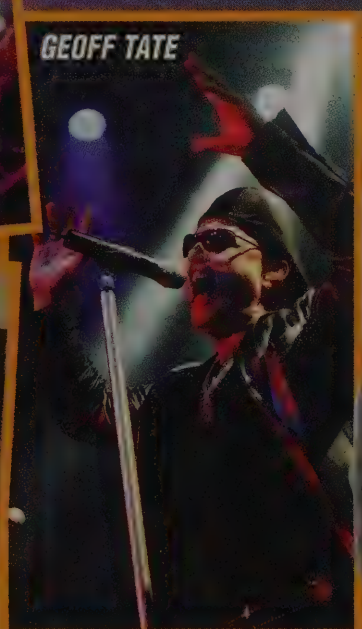
UDO DIRKSCHNEIDER



ALL PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



GEOFF TATE



CRISTINA SCABBIA



DAVE WILLIAMS



LAYNE STALEY

TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. CHRIS CORNELL
2. SERJ TANKIAN
3. COREY TAYLOR
4. DAVID DRAIMAN
5. JONATHAN DAVIS
6. SCOTT WEILAND
7. CHESTER BENNINGTON
8. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAN
9. LAJON WITHERSPOON
10. SULLY ERNA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 ENGLISH VOCALISTS

1. ROBERT PLANT
2. ROB HALFORD
3. OZZY OSBOURNE
4. PAUL RODGERS
5. FREDDIE MERCURY
6. BRUCE DICKINSON
7. LEMMY
8. STEVE MARRIOTT
9. IAN GILLAN
10. DAVID COVERDALE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 AMERICAN VOCALISTS

1. STEVEN TYLER
2. CHRIS CORNELL
3. RONNIE JAMES DIO
4. AXL ROSE
5. DAVID LEE ROTH
6. SAMMY HAGAR
7. GEOFF TATE
8. LAYNE STALEY
9. STEVE PERRY
10. PHILIP ANSELM

ALL-TIME TOP 10 NON/AMERICAN NON/ENGLISH VOCALISTS

1. KLAUS MEINE
2. GEDDY LEE
3. BON SCOTT
4. DOD DIRKSCHNEIDER
5. CRISTINA SCABBIA
6. KING DIAMOND
7. VILLE VALO
8. MICHAEL KISKE
9. MICHAEL MONROE
10. JENS KIRMAN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DECEASED VOCALISTS

1. FREDDIE MERCURY
2. BON SCOTT
3. KURT COBAIN
4. LAYNE STALEY
5. DAVE WILLIAMS
6. ANDREW WOOD
7. LYNN STRAIT
8. PHILIP LYNOTT
9. RAY GILLEN
10. STEVE MARRIOTT

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST NEGLECTED VOCALISTS

1. GLENN HUGHES (DEEP PURPLE/BLACK SABBATH)
2. PHIL MOGG (UFO)
3. JOE LYNN TURNER (RAINBOW, DEEP PURPLE)
4. BIFF BYFORD (SAXON)
5. LOU GRAMM (FOREIGNER)
6. RAY GILLEN (BADLANDS, BLACK SABBATH)
7. FRANKIE MILLER
8. MICHAEL MONROE (HANOI ROCKS)
9. MYLES KENNEDY (ALTERBRIDGE)
10. MIKE MATIJEVIC (STEELHEART)

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST NEGLECTED STARS

1. MALCOLM YOUNG, AC/DC
2. JOHN PAUL JONES, LED ZEPPELIN
3. JOSEPH HAHN, LINKIN PARK
4. ADRIAN SMITH, IRON MAIDEN
5. IAN HILL, JUDAS PRIEST
6. DARON MALAKIAN, SYSTEM OF A DOWN
7. GEEZER BUTLER, BLACK SABBATH
8. TICK MARS, MOTLEY CRUE
9. MICHAEL ANTHONY, VAN HALEN
10. DUFF MCKAGAN, G'N R/ VELVET REVOLVER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LIVE PERFORMERS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. MARILYN MANSON
3. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
4. DAVID LEE ROTH, VAN HALEN
5. STEVEN TYLER, AEROSMITH
6. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
7. FREDDIE MERCURY, QUEEN
8. CHRIS CORNELL, SOUNDGARDEN/AUDIOSLAVE
9. TED NUGENT
10. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC

ALL-TIME TOP 10 RAP/METAL STARS

1. FRED DURST, LIMP BIZKIT
2. CHESTER BENNINGTON, LINKIN PARK
3. SONNY SANDOVAL, P.O.D.
4. KID ROCK
5. JOSEY SCOTT, SALIVA
6. MIKE SHINODA, LINKIN PARK
7. JONATHAN DAVIS, KORN
8. WES BORLAND, LIMP BIZKIT
9. JACOBY SHADDIX, PAPA ROACH
10. BRIAN "HEAD" WELCH, KORN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARD ROCK STARS WITH THE LONGEST NAMES

1. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN
2. UDO DIRKSCHNEIDER
3. ADRIAN VANDENBERG
4. PIERRE VAN DER LINDEN
5. LAJON WITHERSPOON
6. CHESTER BENNINGTON
7. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAM
8. FERNANDO VON ARB
9. LEMMY KILMISTER
10. FREDRIK THORDENDAL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLOND STARS

1. DAVID LEE ROTH, VAN HALEN
2. BREY MICHAELS, POISON
3. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
4. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
5. RANDY RHODES, OZZY OSBOURNE
6. K.K. DOWNING, JUDAS PRIEST
7. VINCE NEIL, MOTLEY CRUE
8. DUFF MCKAGAN, G'N R/ VELVET REVOLVER
9. MIKE TRAMP, WHITE ZEN
10. LITA FORD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 EX-MEMBERS OF BLACK SABBATH

1. RONNIE JAMES DIO
2. COZY POWELL
3. VINNY APPICE
4. IAN GILLAN
5. ERIC SINGER
6. GLENN HUGHES
7. BOB DAISLEY
8. RAY GILLEN
9. TONY MARTIN
10. BEV BEVAN

58 HIT PARADER



DAVID LEE ROTH

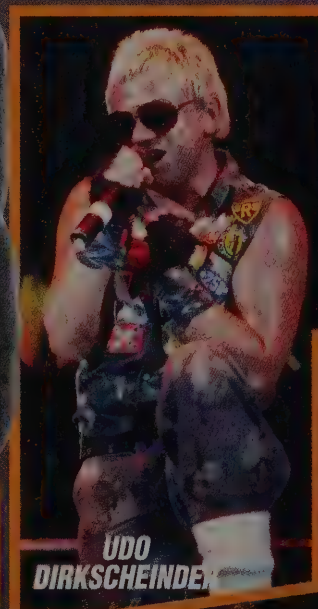
ALL PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



MIKE SHINODA



CHESTER BENNINGTON



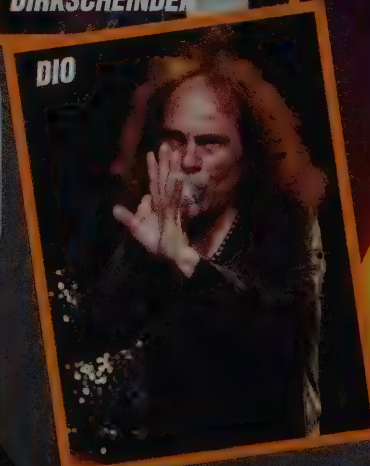
UDO DIRKSCHNEIDER



LEMMY KILMISTER



VINCE NEIL



DIO



IRON MAIDEN



RIPPER OWENS



AARON LEWIS



PAUL STANLEY



JIMMY PAGE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MEMBERS OF IRON MAIDEN

1. STEVE HARRIS
2. DAVE MURRAY
3. BRUCE DICKINSON
4. ADRIAN SMITH
5. NICKO McBRAIN
6. JANICK GERS
7. PAUL DI'ANNO
8. CLIVE BURR
9. BLAYZE BAYLEY
10. DENNIS STRATTON

ALL-TIME TOP 10 IN-AND-OUT STARS

1. RIPPER OWENS, JUDAS PRIEST
2. GARY CHERONE, VAN HALEN
3. BLAZE BAYLEY, IRON MAIDEN
4. GILBEY CLARK, GUNS 'N ROSES
5. STEVIE YOUNG, AC/DC
6. RICK DUFAY, AEROSMITH
7. RICHIE KOTZEN, POISON
8. JOHN CORABI, MOTLEY CRUE
9. BERNIE TORME, OZZY
10. DAVE MUSTAINE, METALLICA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST MYSTERIOUS STARS

1. AXL ROSE, GUNS 'N ROSES
2. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
3. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
4. TRENT REZNOR, NINE INCH NAILS
5. EDDIE VEDDER, PEARL JAM
6. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE
7. CHRIS CORNELL, SOUNDGARDEN/AUDIOSLAVE
8. NEIL PEART, RUSH
9. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
10. AARON LEWIS, STAINED

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BEST INTERVIEWS

1. DAVID LEE ROTH, VAN HALEN
2. STEVEN TYLER, AEROSMITH
3. OZZY OSBOURNE
4. BLACK SABBATH
5. PAUL STANLEY, ISS
6. JOE BLUETT, DEEP PURPLE
7. NIKKI SIXX, MOTLEY CRUE
8. MARILYN MANSON
9. WIMBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
10. RONNIE JAMES DIO, BLACK SABBATH
11. LEMMY, MOTORHEAD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL STARS

1. OZZY OSBOURNE, BLACK SABBATH
2. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
3. JAMES HETFIELD, METALLICA
4. ROBERT PLANT, LED ZEPPELIN
5. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
6. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
7. JIMI HENDRIX
8. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
9. NIKKI SIXX, MOTLEY CRUE
10. SLASH, GUNS 'N ROSES/VELVET REVOLVER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MELODIC METAL ALBUMS

1. BON JOVI, *SLIPPERY WHEN WET*
2. DEF LEPPARD, *PYROMANIA*
3. UFO, *LIGHTS OUT*
4. AEROSMITH, *ROCKS*
5. LINKIN PARK, *HYBRID THEORY*
6. VAN HALEN, *OU812*
7. QUEENSRYCHE, *OPERATION:MINDCRIME*
8. POISON, *LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN*
9. DOKKEN, *TOOTH AND NAIL*
10. CREED, *HUMAN CLAY*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 RAP/METAL ALBUMS

1. LINKIN PARK, *HYBRID THEORY*
2. P.O.D., *FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF SOUTHDOWN*
3. LIMP BIZKIT, *SIGNIFICANT OTHER*
4. CRAZY TOWN, *THE GIFT OF GAME*
5. SALIVA, *EVERY SIX SECONDS*
6. LINKIN PARK, *METEORA*
7. PAPA ROACH, *INFEST*
8. ADEMA, *ADEMA*
9. TRIK TURNER, *TRIK TURNER*
10. KID ROCK, *COCKY*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITAR GOD DISCS

1. JIMI HENDRIX, *ARE YOUR EXPERIENCED*
2. VAN HALEN, *VAN HALEN*
3. GARY MOORE, *AFTER THE WAR*
4. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN, *RISE FORCE*
5. OZZY OSBOURNE, *BLIZZARD OF OZZ*
6. JEFF BECK GROUP, *TRUTH*
7. CREAM, *DISRAELI GEARS*
8. GUNS N' ROSES, *APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION*
9. DEEP PURPLE, *IN ROCK*
10. LED ZEPPELIN, *II*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARD ROCK ALBUMS OF THE 80's

1. LED ZEPPELIN, *LED ZEPPELIN*
2. JIMI HENDRIX, *ARE YOUR EXPERIENCED*
3. ALICE COOPER, *LOVE IT TO DEATH*
4. CREAM, *DISRAELI GEARS*
5. JEFF BECK GROUP, *TRUTH*
6. LED ZEPPELIN, *II*
7. BLUE CHEER, *VINCEBUS ERUPTUM*
8. IRON BUTTERFLY, *INA GADDA DA VIDA*
9. MC5, *KICK OUT THE JAMS*
10. MOUNTAIN, *CLIMBING*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARD ROCK ALBUMS OF THE '70S

1. BLACK SABBATH, *MASTER OF REALITY*
2. LED ZEPPELIN, *IV*
3. KISS, *DESTROYER*
4. JUDAS PRIEST, *HELL BENT FOR LEATHER*
5. AC/DC, *POWERAGE*
6. AEROSMITH, *ROCKS*
7. QUEEN, *QUEEN*
8. DEEP PURPLE, *IN ROCK*
9. VAN HALEN, *VAN HALEN*
10. MONTROSE, *MONTROSE*

60 HIT PARADER



DEF LEPPARD



PHOTO:
ANNAMARIA DISANTO



CHESTER BENNINGTON

YNGWIE MALMSTEEN



PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

BLACK SABBATH

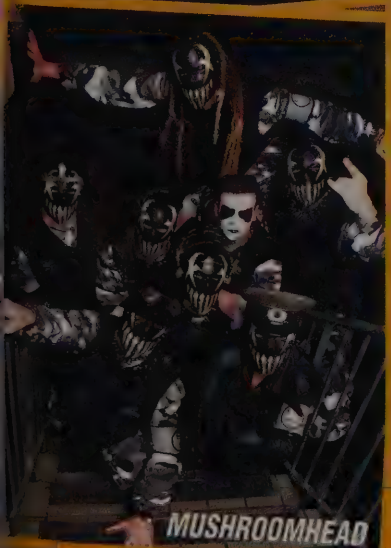




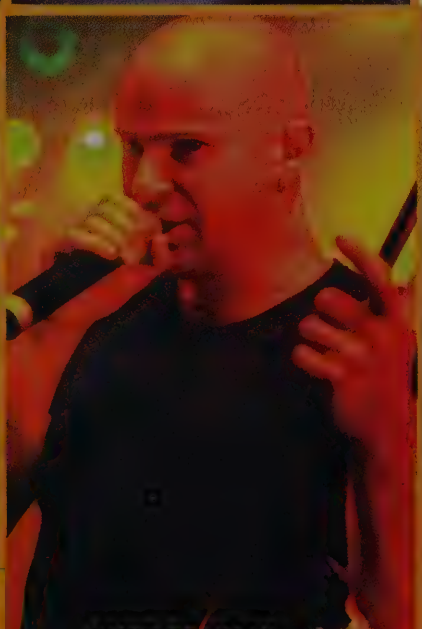
MANSON



SLIPKNOT



MUSHROOMHEAD



DAVID DRAIMAN

TOP 10 HARD ROCK ALBUMS OF THE '80S

1. METALLICA, *RIDE THE LIGHTNING*
2. SLAYER, *REIGN IN BLOOD*
3. MOTLEY CRUE, *DR. FEELGOOD*
4. BLACK SABBATH, *HEAVEN AND HELL*
5. OZZY OSBOURNE, *BLIZZARD OF OZZ*
6. IRON MAIDEN, *POWERSLAVE*
7. THE CULT, *ELECTRIC*
8. QUEENSRYCHE, *OPERATION: MINDCRIME*
9. AC/DC, *BACK IN BLACK*
10. DIO, *HOLY DIVER*

TOP 10 HARD ROCK ALBUMS OF THE '90S

1. KORN, *KORN*
2. MARILYN MANSON, *ANTICHRIST SUPERSTAR*
3. SOUNDGARDEN, *BADMOTORFINGER*
4. ALICE IN CHAINS, *DIRT*
5. PANTERA, *FAR BEYOND DRIVEN*
6. TOOL, *UNDERQUW*
7. SLAYER, *SEASONS IN THE ABYSS*
8. NIRVANA, *NEVERMIND*
9. MEGADETH, *COUNTDOWN TO EXTINCTION*
10. METALLICA, *LOAD/RELOAD*

TOP 10 HARD ROCK ALBUMS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. SLIPKNOT, *SUBLIMINAL VERSES*
2. LINKIN PARK, *HYBRID THEORY*
3. P.O.D., *SATELLITE*
4. VELVET REVOLVER, *CONTRABAND*
5. AUDIOSLAVE, *AUDIOSLAVE*
6. DISTURBED, *THE SICKNESS*
7. LAMB OF GOD, *ASHES OF THE WAKE*
8. GODSMACK, *AWAKE*
9. PUDDLE OF MUDD, *COME CLEAN*
10. JUDAS PRIEST, *ANGEL OF RETRIBUTION*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SHOCK ROCK DISCS

1. SLIPKNOT, *SLIPKNOT*
2. ALICE COOPER, *LOVE IT TO DEATH*
3. KING DIAMOND, *ABIGAIL*
4. MUSHROOMHEAD, *XX*
5. CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN, *FIRE*
6. MUDVAYNE, *LD 50*
7. KISS, *HOTTER THAN HELL*
8. CRADLE OF FILTH, *PUSS AND HER EMBRACE*
9. TWISTED SISTER, *STAY HUNGRY*
10. W.A.S.P., *W.A.S.P.*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "NEW METAL" ALBUMS

1. DISTURBED, *THE SICKNESS*
2. POWERMAN 5000, *TONIGHT THE STARS REVOLT!*
3. STAINED, *BREAK THE CYCLE*
4. ADEMA, *ADEMA*
5. KORN, *KORN*
6. P.O.D., *SATELLITE*
7. SALIVA, *EVERY SIX SECONDS*
8. SEVENDUST, *SEVENDUST*
9. GODSMACK, *GODSMACK*
10. LINKIN PARK, *HYBRID THEORY*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 ALBUMS YOUR MOTHER WOULD HATE

1. MESHUGGAH, *NOTHING*
2. MARILYN MANSON, *SMELLS LIKE CHILDREN*
3. KING DIAMOND, *ABIGAIL*
4. SLIPKNOT, *SLIPKNOT*
5. REIGN IN BLOOD, *SLAYER*
6. MORBID ANGEL, *BLESSED ARE THE SICK*
7. CRADLE OF FILTH, *PRINCIPLE OF EVIL MADE FLESH*
8. POISON THE WELL, *THE OPPOSITE OF DECEMBER*
9. BLUE CHEER, *VINCIBUS ERUPTUM*
10. ALICE COOPER, *LOVE IT TO DEATH*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL CDs

1. POISON, *LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN*
2. MOTLEY CRUE, *DR. FEELGOOD*
3. BATT, *OUT OF THE CELLAR*
4. WARRANT, *DIRTY MOTTEN*
5. DILTHY, *STINKING RICH*
6. BLACK 'N BLUE, *BLACK 'N BLUE*
7. WHITE LION, *PRIDE*
8. WHITESNAKE, *SLIDE IT IN*
9. SKID ROW, *SKID ROW*
10. SLAUGHTER, *STICK IT TO YA*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LED ZEPPELIN-ASSOCIATED DISCS

1. ROBERT PLANT, *PICTURES AT ELEVEN*
2. PAGE/PLANT, *NO QUARTER*
3. ROBERT PLANT, *NOW AND ZEN*
4. PAGE/PLANT, *WALKING INTO CLARKSDALE*
5. ROBERT PLANT, *MIGHTY REARRANGER*
6. JIMMY PAGE, *OUTRIDER*
7. JOHN PAUL JONES, *SCREAM FOR HELP*
8. JIMMY PAGE, *DEATH WISH II (SOUNDTRACK)*
9. COVERDALE/PAGE, *COVERDALE/PAGE*
10. JASON BONHAM, *THE DISREGARD OF TIMEKEEPING*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 NON-OZZY SABBATH ALBUMS

1. MOB RULES
2. HEAVEN & HELL
3. SEVENTH STAR
4. CROSS PURPOSES
5. DEHUMANIZER
6. BORN AGAIN
7. THE ETERNAL IDOL
8. LIVE EVIL
9. TYR
10. HEADLESS CROSS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GRUNGE DISCS

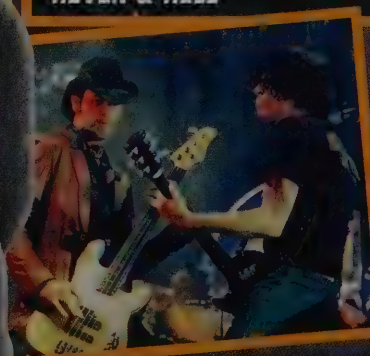
1. NIRVANA, *NEVERMIND*
2. STONE TEMPLE PILOTS, *CORE*
3. SOUNDGARDEN, *LOUDER THAN LOVE*
4. ALICE IN CHAINS, *DIRT*
5. MOTHER LOVE BONE, *APPLE*
6. PEARL JAM, *TEN*
7. NIRVANA, *IN UTERO*
8. STONE TEMPLE PILOTS, *PURPLE*
9. SOUNDGARDEN, *SUPERUNKNOWN*
10. ALICE IN CHAINS, *JAR OF FLIES*



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



ROBERT PLANT



PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



HP

MANSON

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
ALBUMS WITH "HELL" IN THE TITLE**

1. HIGHWAY TO HELL, AC/DC
2. HEAVEN AND HELL, BLACK SABBATH
3. HELL AWAITS, SLAYER
4. HELL BENT FOR LEATHER, JUDAS PRIEST
5. HOTTER THAN HELL, KISS
6. SEE YOU IN HELL, GRIM REAPER
7. HELLUVA BAND, ANGEL
8. COWBOYS FROM HELL, PANTERA
9. ALL HELL'S BREAKING LOOSE, WOLFSBANE
10. TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL, STRYPER

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BLACK METAL ALBUMS**

1. CRADLE OF FILTH, MIDIAN
2. DIMMU BORGIR, DEATH CULT ARMAGEDDON
3. EMPEROR, ANTHEMS TO THE WELKEN AT DUSK
4. DARKTHRONE, TRANSYLVANIAN HUNGER
5. VENOM, BLACK METAL
6. BATHORY, BATHORY
7. KING DIAMOND, ABIGAIL
8. CRADLE OF FILTH, PRINCIPLE OF EVIL MADE FLESH
9. MAYHEM, DEATHCRUSH
10. SATINICON, REBEL EXTRAVAGANZA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HARDCORE DISCS

1. SICK OF IT ALL, BLOOD SWEAT AND NO TEARS
2. HATEBREED, SATISFACTION IS THE DEATH OF DESIRE
3. GORILLA BISCUITS, START TODAY
4. CRO-MAGS, AGE OF QUARREL
5. INTO ANOTHER, INTO ANOTHER
6. LIFE OF AGONY, RIVER RUNS RED
7. SNAPCASE, PROGRESSION THROUGH UNLEARNING
8. MINOR THREAT, OUT OF STEP
9. EARTH CRISIS, FIRESTORM
10. KEEWAY, BORN TO EXPIRE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10 NEW WAVE OF
AMERICAN METAL DISCS**

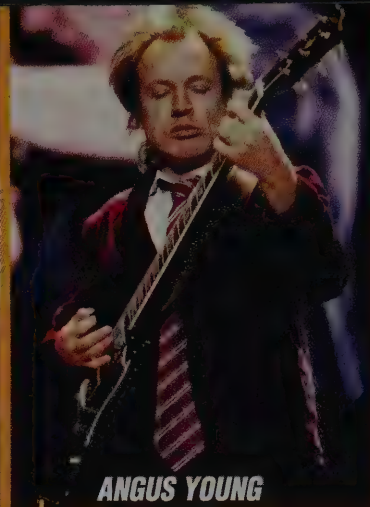
1. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE, ACTIVE OR JUST BREATHING
2. LAMB OF GOD, AS THE PALACES BURN
3. SHADOWS FALL, OF ONE BLOOD
4. MASTODON, REMISSION
5. POISON THE WELL, THE OPPOSITE OF DECEMBER
6. AT THE DRIVE IN, RELATIONSHIP OF COMMAND
7. GLASSJAW, EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SILENCE
8. SLIPKNOT, SLIPKNOT
9. THE LINGER ESCAPE PLAN, CALCULATING INFINITE
10. DEFTONES, WHITE PONY

**ALL-TIME TOP 10 FEMALE-
FRONTED METAL DISCS**

1. RUNAWAYS, THE RUNAWAYS
2. DORO, TRIUMPH AND AGONY
3. LITA FORD, STILETTO
4. KITTIE, SPIT
5. LACUNA COIL, COMALIES
6. PLASMATICS, COUP D'ETAT
7. DRAIN STH, HORROR WRESTLING
8. JOAN JETT, I LOVE ROCK 'N ROLL
9. EVANESCENCE, FALLEN
10. LEE AARON, METAL QUEEN

64 HIT PARADER

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



ANGUS YOUNG



CRADLE OF FILTH



DIMMU BORGIR



HATEBREED



LAMB OF GOD



KILLSWITCH ENGAGE



LITA FORD

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

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Hard rock is a medium filled with life. It is a form based on its energy, its passion and it's live-for-today philosophies. Alas, in such a lifestyle there must always be those who succumb to the vagaries of such an approach. These rockers are Metal's Fallen Heroes, some of the most famous and infamous performers the rock and roll world has ever seen. From superstars like Jimi Hendrix, Randy Rhoads and Kurt Cobain to timeless personalities such as Bon Scott, Freddie Mercury and Dimebag Darrell each and every one of our featured stars brought a unique persona to their too-short time on Planet Earth. They may be gone, but they'll never be forgotten, and with that in mind, we present this heart-felt tribute to Metal's Fallen Heroes.

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FALLEN HEROES AD

TOP 10 CDs OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. SLIPKNOT, VOL 3: THE SUBLIMINAL VERSES
2. SLAYER, GOD HATES US ALL
3. AUDIOSLAVE, AUDIOSLAVE
4. METALLICA, ST. ANGER
5. SYSTEM OF A DOWN, TOXICITY
6. LAMB OF GOD, ASHES OF THE WAKE
7. AVENGED SEVENFOLD, CITY OF EVIL
8. NINE INCH NAILS, WITH TEETH
9. MASTODON, LEVIATHAN
10. VELVET REVOLVER, LIBERTAD

TOP 10 EUROPEAN BANDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. CRADLE OF FILTH
2. LACUNA COIL
3. DRAGONFORCE
4. THE DARKNESS
5. DIMMU BORGIR
6. BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
7. MESHUGGAH
8. NIGHTWISH
9. OPIETH
10. JET

TOP 10 AMERICAN BANDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. SLIPKNOT
2. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
3. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
4. AUDIOSLAVE
5. MASTODON
6. AVENGED SEVENFOLD
7. VELVET REVOLVER
8. LAMB OF GOD
9. CHEVELLE
10. SHADOWS FALL

TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
2. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
3. AVENGED SEVENFOLD
4. CRADLE OF FILTH
5. VELVET REVOLVER
6. LINKIN PARK
7. LAMB OF GOD
8. SLIPKNOT
9. MASTODON
10. HEAVEN AND HELL

TOP 10 VOCALISTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. CHRIS CORNELL
2. SERJ TANKIAN
3. COREY TAYLOR
4. DAVID DRAIMAN
5. JONATHAN DAVIS
6. SCOTT WEILAND
7. CHESTER BENNINGTON
8. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAN
9. LAJON WITHERSPON
10. SULLY ERNA

TOP 10 HARD ROCK STARS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

1. CHRIS CORNELL, AUDIOSLAVE
2. COREY TAYLOR, SLIPKNOT
3. DAVID DRAIMAN, DISTURBED
4. JUSTIN HAWKINS, THE DARKNESS
5. CHINO MORENO, THE DEFTONES
6. AARON LEWIS, STAINED
7. CHESTER BENNINGTON, LINKIN PARK
8. SERJ TANKIAN, SYSTEM OF A DOWN
9. FRED DURST, LIMP BIZKIT
10. SULLY ERNA, GODSMACK



SOAD



CRADLE OF FILTH



DRAGON FORCE



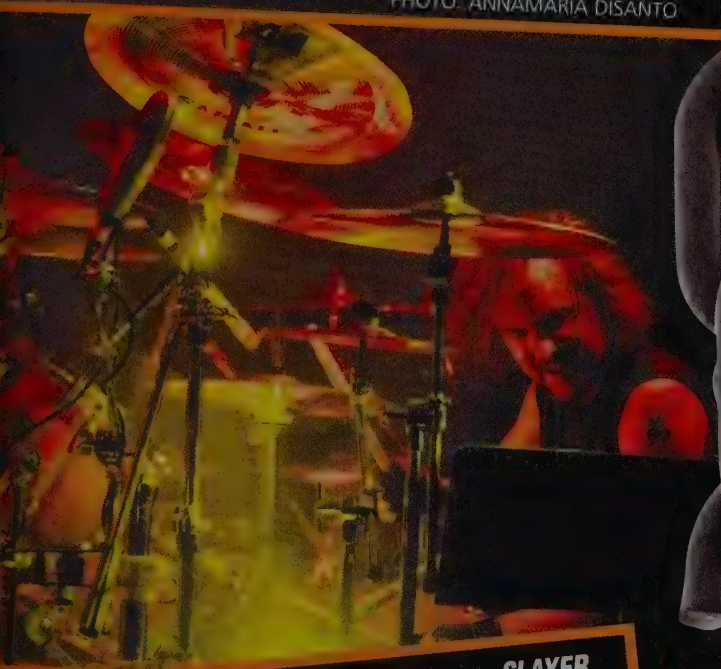
SLIPKNOT



SHADOWS FALL



AVENGED SEVENFOLD



SLAYER



JIMI HENDRIX



MOTLEY CRUE



LED ZEPPELIN

TOP 10 BASSISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. TIM CUMMORFORD
2. CHI CHING
3. BRANN DAILOR
4. MIKE D'ANTONIO
5. TROY SAUNDERS
6. ROBERT TRUJILLO
7. CHAD GRAY
8. ROBBIE MERRILL
9. JON WYSOCKI
10. JOHN CAMPBELL

TOP 10 DRUMMERS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. MATT McDONOUGH
2. JOEY JORDISON
3. JOHNNY APRIL
4. MIKE WENGREN
5. ABE CUNNINGHAM
6. CHRIS ADLER
7. DAVID SILVERIA
8. MATT BYRNE
9. CRISTIANO MOZZATI
10. THE REVEREND

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HEAVIEST METAL BANDS

1. SLAYER
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. KYUSS
4. METALLICA
5. PANTERA
6. BUDGIE
7. JUDAS PRIEST
8. IRON MAIDEN
9. MERCYFUL FATE
10. MESHUGGAH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST COMMERCIAL HARD ROCK BANDS

1. DEF LEPPARD
2. LED ZEPPELIN
3. AC/DC
4. DEEP PURPLE
5. MOTLEY CRUE
6. NIRVANA
7. JUDAS PRIEST
8. WHITESNAKE
9. METALLICA
10. AEROSMITH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BANDS OF THE '60s

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. LED ZEPPELIN
3. CREAM
4. THE YARDBIRDS
5. THE ROLLING STONES
6. DEEP PURPLE
7. MCS
8. BLUE CHEER
9. MOUNTAIN
10. ALICE COOPER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BANDS OF THE '70s

1. LED ZEPPELIN
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. KISS
4. AEROSMITH
5. DEEP PURPLE
6. QUEEN
7. MONTROSE
8. UFO
9. VAN HALEN
10. TED NUGENT

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BANDS OF THE '80s**

1. VAN HALEN
2. MOTLEY CRUE
3. METALLICA
4. DEF LEPPARD
5. JUDAS PRIEST
6. IRON MAIDEN
7. BON JOVI
8. DIO
9. SLAYER
10. OZZY OSBOURNE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BANDS OF THE '90s**

1. GUNS N' ROSES
2. SOUNDGARDEN
3. KORN
4. PEARL JAM
5. ALICE IN CHAINS
6. NIRVANA
7. OZZY OSBOURNE
8. MARILYN MANSON
9. METALLICA
10. NINE INCH NAILS

**TOP 10
BANDS OF THE 21st CENTURY**

1. SLIPKNOT
2. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
3. AUDIOSLAVE
4. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
5. DISTURBED
6. MUDVAYNE
7. VELVET REVOLVER
8. STAINED
9. CHEVELLE
10. THE DARKNESS

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
BLACK METAL BANDS**

1. SLAYER
2. SATYRICON
3. HYPOCRISY
4. VOIVOD
5. ENTOMBED
6. CATHEDRAL
7. AT THE GATES
8. MERCYFUL FATE
9. CELTIC FROST
10. MESHUGGAH

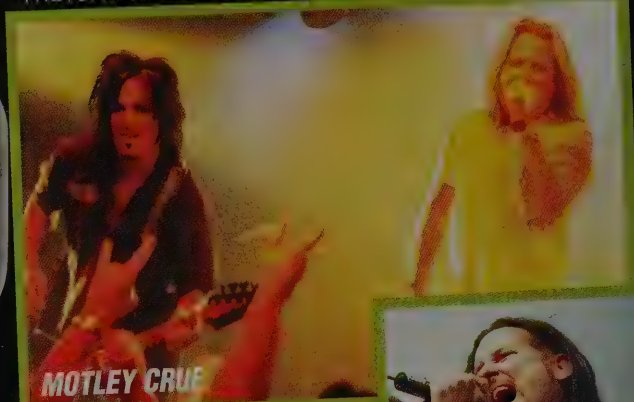
**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"UNDERGROUND" BANDS**

1. HATEBREED
2. OPETH
3. KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
4. CRADLE OF FILTH
5. CELTIC FROST
6. MERCYFUL FATE
7. ARCH ENEMY
8. CATHEDRAL
9. DIMMU BorgIR
10. MISFITS

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"UNDERGROUND" STARS**

1. CLIFF BURTON
2. DAVE MUSTAINE
3. KERRY KING
4. TOM ARAYA
5. LEMMY
6. SCOTT IAN
7. JAMEY JASTA
8. GLENN DANZIG
9. MICHAEL MONROE
10. DANI FILTH

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



MOTLEY CRUE

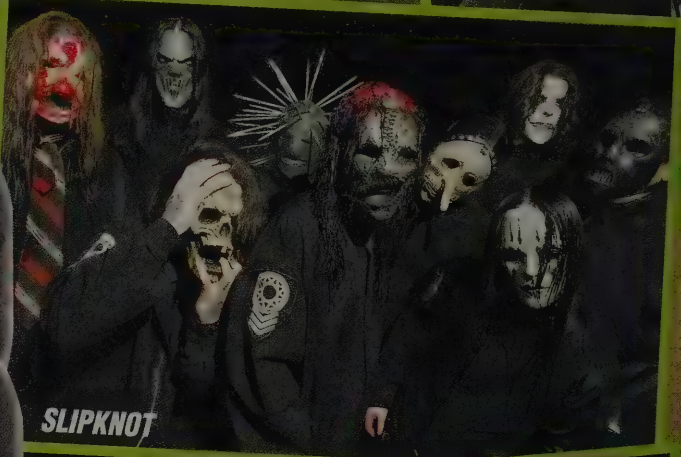
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KILLSWITCH ENGAGE



JONATHAN DAVIS



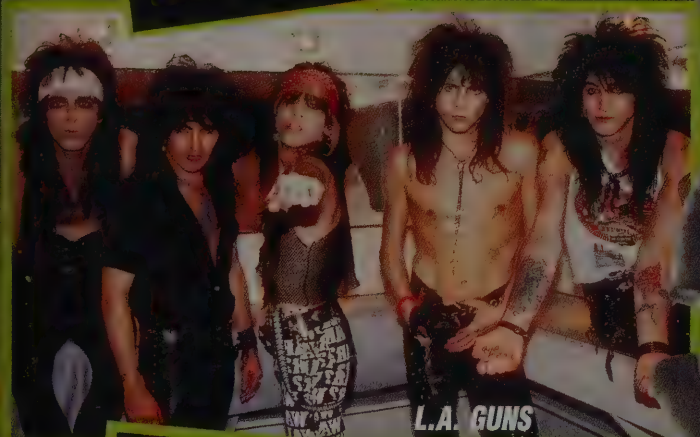
SLIPKNOT

DANI FILTH

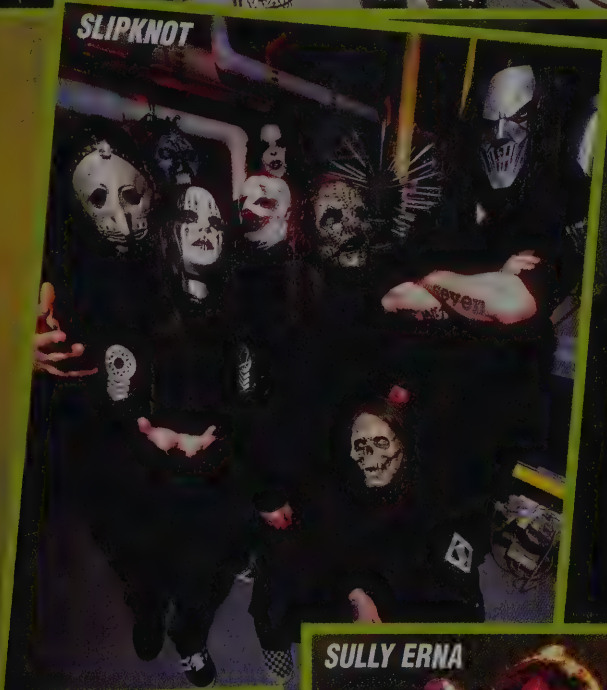


SLAYER

PHOTOS:
ANNAMARIA DISANTO



L.A. GUNS



SLIPKNOT



SULLY ERNA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "UNDERGROUND" CDs

1. METALLICA, KILL 'EM ALL
2. PANTERA, VULGAR DISPLAY OF POWER
3. MEGADETH, PEACE SELLS BUT WHO'S BUYING
4. SEPULTURA, ROOTS
5. HATEBREED, SATISFACTION IS THE DEATH OF DESIRE
6. CRADLE OF FILTH, THE PRINCIPLE OF EVIL MADE FLESH
7. SLAYER, REIGN IN BLOOD
8. DEFTONES, AROUND THE FUR
9. ANTHRAX, AMONG THE LIVING
10. MESHUGGAH, CHAOSPHERE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL BANDS

1. GUNS N' ROSES
2. BON JOVI
3. DEF LEPPARD
4. POISON
5. MOTLEY CRUE
6. THE CULT
7. CINDERELLA
8. WHITESNAKE
9. L.A. GUNS
10. SKID ROW

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SHOCK ROCK BANDS

1. KISS
2. SLIPKNOT
3. MOTLEY CRUE
4. MERCYFUL FATE
5. ALICE COOPER
6. TWISTED SISTER
7. MUDVAYNE
8. WHITE ZOMBIE
9. MUSHROOMHEAD
10. THE MISFITS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GRUNGE BANDS

1. ALICE IN CHAINS
2. SOUNDGARDEN
3. NIRVANA
4. PEARL JAM
5. MUDHONEY
6. STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
7. MOTHER LOVE BONE
8. TEMPLE OF THE DOG
9. NEIL YOUNG
10. CANDLEBOX

ALL-TIME TOP 10 "NEW METAL" BANDS

1. KORN
2. DISTURBED
3. STAINED
4. SEVENDUST
5. LINKIN PARK
6. COLD
7. DEFTONES
8. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
9. GODSMACK
10. PUDDLE OF MUDD

ALL PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INNOVATIVE BANDS

1. KISS
2. JIMI HENDRIX
3. BLACK SABBATH
4. NIRVANA
5. LINKIN PARK
6. METALLICA
7. KORN
8. DEEP PURPLE
9. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
10. NINE INCH NAILS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS

1. LED ZEPPELIN
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. JIMI HENDRIX
4. KISS
5. METALLICA
6. NIRVANA
7. AC/DC
8. MOTLEY CRUE
9. KORN
10. SLAYER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST OUTRAGEOUS BANDS

1. SLIPKNOT
2. CRADLE OF FILTH
3. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
4. KISS
5. MERCYFUL FATE
6. MUDVAYNE
7. DIMMUR BORGIR
8. TWISTED SISTER
9. WHITE ZOMBIE
10. MOTOGRATER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 AMERICAN BANDS

1. VAN HALEN
2. METALLICA
3. AEROSMITH
4. KISS
5. JIMI HENDRIX
6. MOTLEY CRUE
7. SOUNDGARDEN
8. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
9. ALICE IN CHAINS
10. RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BRITISH BANDS

1. LED ZEPPELIN
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. JUDAS PRIEST
4. DEEP PURPLE
5. MOTORHEAD
6. DEF LEPPARD
7. IRON MAIDEN
8. URIAH HEPP
9. QUEEN
10. THE DARKNESS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 NON-AMERICAN/NON-BRITISH BANDS

1. AC/DC (AUSTRALIA)
2. SCORPIONS (GERMANY)
3. SEPULTURA (BRAZIL)
4. ACCEPT (GERMANY)
5. LOUDNESS (JAPAN)
6. RUSH (CANADA)
7. MESHUGGAH (SWEDEN)
8. VOIVOD (CANADA)
9. THIN LIZZY (IRELAND)
10. WOLFMOOTHER (AUSTRALIA)

70 HIT PARADER

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KURT COBAIN

LED ZEPPELIN

SLIPKNOT

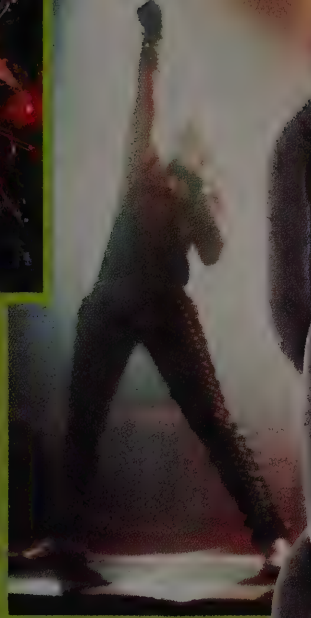
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RED HOT CHILI
PEPPERS

WOLFMOOTHER



JUDAS PRIEST



DISTURBED



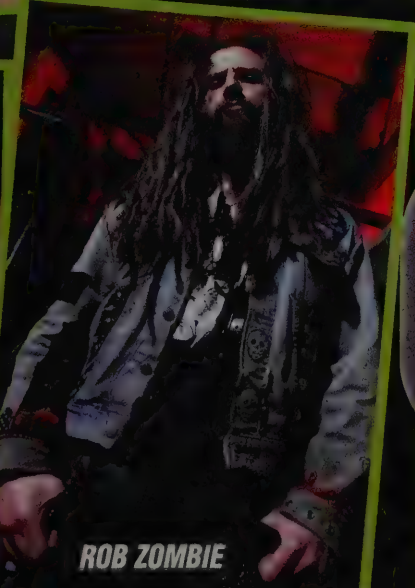
BLACK LABEL SOCIETY



DEEP PURPLE



SLIPKNOT



ROB ZOMBIE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
MOST NEGLECTED BANDS**

1. MONTROSE
2. SAXON
3. BUDGIE
4. UFO
5. KING'S X
6. URIAH HEPP
7. MANOWAR
8. HATEBREED
9. BADLANDS
10. KYUSS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LIVE BANDS

1. KISS
2. LED ZEPPELIN
3. AC/DC
4. JUDAS PRIEST
5. METALLICA
6. SLIPKNOT
7. ALICE COOPER
8. OZZY OSBOURNE
9. AEROSMITH
11. TED NUGENT

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"POLITICAL" BANDS**

1. RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
2. MC5
3. SYSTEM OF A DOWN
4. DISTURBED
5. JIMI HENDRIX
6. BLACK SABBATH
7. METALLICA
8. NINE INCH NAILS
9. PEARL JAM
10. DEFTONES

**TOP 10 METAL BANDS NAMED
AFTER THEIR MAIN MAN**

1. VAN HALEN
2. JIMI HENDRIX
3. OZZY OSBOURNE
4. TED NUGENT
5. WHITE ZOMBIE
6. ALICE COOPER
7. DIO
8. MARILYN MANSON
9. BOKKEN
10. MONTROSE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"COLOR" METAL BANDS**

1. DEEP PURPLE
2. BLACK SABBATH
3. WHITESNAKE
4. BLUE CHEER
5. WHITE ZOMBIE
6. BLUE OYSTER CULT
7. BLUE MURDER
8. BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
9. ORANGE 9 MM
10. SILVERTIDE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10 HIT PARADER
BAND NICKNAMES**

1. NINE MAN MUTANT METAL ARMY (SLIPKNOT)
2. BAY AREA BASHERS (METALLICA)
3. BOSTON BAD BOYS (AEROSMITH)
4. COSTUMED CRUSADERS (KISS)
5. TOP GUNNERS (GUNS N' ROSES)
6. WEST COAST WILDMEN (MOTLEY CRUE)
7. THE METAL MACHINE (IRON MAIDEN)
8. TEXAS TORNADOS (PANTERA)
9. THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER (AC/DC)
10. THE METAL GODFATHER (OZZY)

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"NUMBER" BANDS**

1. NINE INCH NAILS
2. SEVENDUST
3. AVENGED SEVENFOLD
4. MC5
5. EIGHTEEN VISIONS
6. ELEMENT EIGHTY
7. TWO
8. 3 INCHES OF BLOOD
9. APARTMENT 26
10. ORANGE 9 MM

ALL-TIME TOP-10 "ANIMAL" BANDS

1. DEF LEPPARD
2. JACKYL
3. WHITE LION
4. TYGERS OF PAN TANG
5. KITTIE
6. MASTODON
7. W.A.S.P.
8. BUDGIE
9. WHITESNAKE
10. WOLFMOOTHER

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"CITY" BANDS**

1. L.A. GUNS
2. HANOI ROCKS
3. SAIGON KICK
4. LONDON CHOIRBOYS
5. NEW YORK DOLLS
6. TOKYO BLADE
7. BOSTON
8. SIR LORD BALTIMORE
9. NASHVILLE PU**Y
10. SHOK PARIS

**ALL-TIME TOP 10
"ROYALTY" BANDS**

1. QUEENSRYCHE
2. KING'S X
3. QUEEN
4. KINGDOM COME
5. QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
6. LIEGE LORD
7. KING DIAMOND
8. HOUSE OF LORDS
9. KING KOBRA
10. PRINCESS PANG

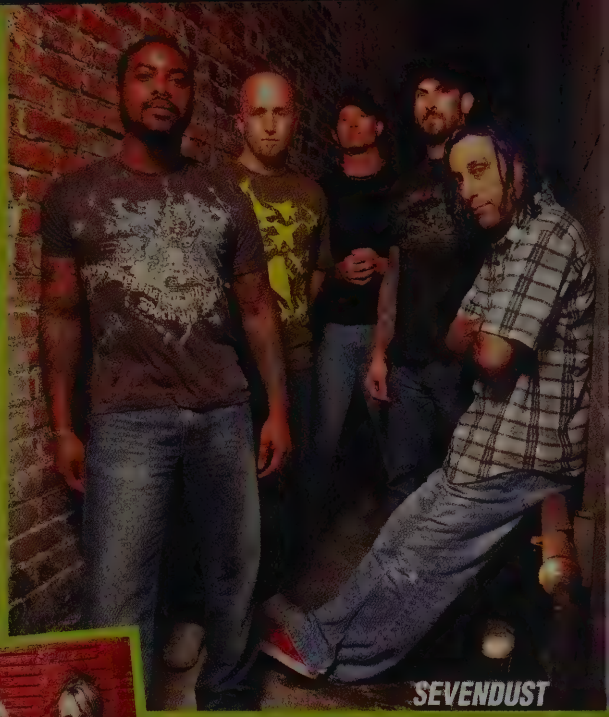
**ALL-TIME TOP 10
DANGEROUSLY NAMED BANDS**

1. NUCLEAR ASSAULT
2. ANTHRAX
3. POISON
4. MEGADETH
5. SLAYER
6. AGONY COLUMN
7. CARCASS
8. ENTOMBED
9. GRIM REAPER
10. CANNIBAL CORPSE

**ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS
(ALTERNATE OPINION)**

1. EDDIE VAN HALEN
2. JIMI HENDRIX
3. SLASH,
G 'N R/VELVET REVOLLVER
4. RANDY RHOADS,
OZZY OSBOURNE
5. JEFF BECK
6. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
7. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
8. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE
9. STEVE VAI
10. ERIC CLAPTON, CREAM

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



SEVENDUST

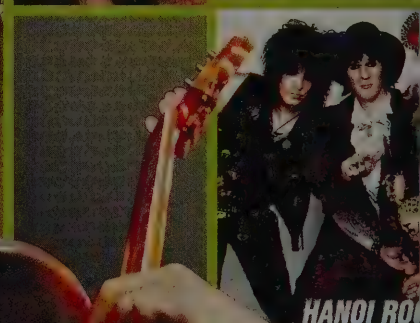


KITTIE

MASTODON



ANTHRAX



HANOI ROCKS



QUEENSRYCHE

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

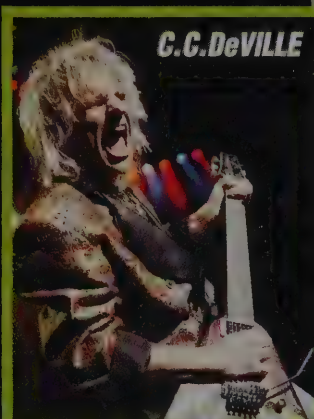


SLASH



ENTOMBED

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



C.C. DeVILLE

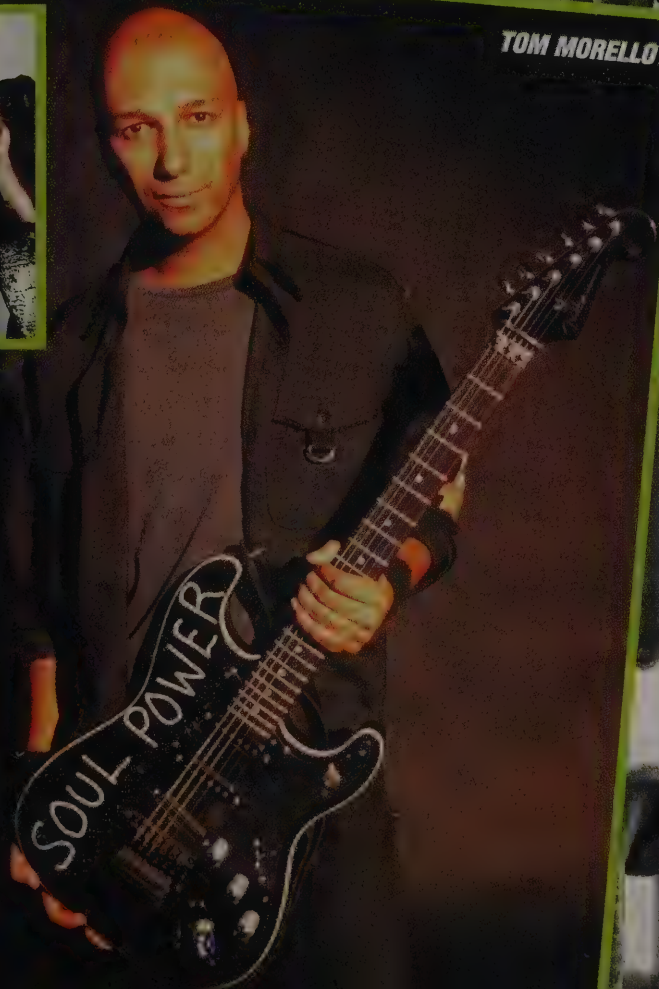


TIPTON/DOWNING



PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

TOM MORELLO



ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLACK METAL GUITARISTS

1. ALEX SKOLNIK, TESTAMENT
2. BILL STEER, CARCASS
3. ALEX HELLID, ENTOMBED
4. TREY AZAGOTH, MORBID ANGEL
5. HANK SHERMAN, MERCYFUL FATE
6. WILL ADLER, LAMB OF GOD
7. MANTAS, VENOM
8. MARTEN HAGSTROM, MESHUGGAH
9. TOM G. WARRIOR, CELTIC FROST
10. RICK HUNOLT, EXODUS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 HAIR METAL GUITARISTS

1. SLASH, GUNS N' ROSES
2. GEORGE LYNCH, DOKKEN
3. WARREN DeMARTINI, RATT
4. C.C. DeVILLE, POISON
5. ADRIAN VANDENBERG, WHITESNAKE
6. MICK MARS, MOTLEY CRUE
7. STEVE VAI, ALCATRAZZ
8. STEVE CLARK, DEF LEPPARD
9. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN
10. REB BEACH, WINGER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITAR DUOS

1. TIPTON/DOWNING, JUDAS PRIEST
2. KING/HANNEMAN, SLAYER
3. HETFIELD/HAMMETT, METALLICA
4. SCHENKER/JABS, SCORPIONS
5. GORHAM/ROBERTSON, THIN LIZZY
6. SLASH/STRADLIN, GUNS N' ROSES
7. PERRY/WHITFIELD, AEROSMITH
8. CLARK/COLLEN, DEF LEPPARD
9. HEAD/MUNKY, KORN
10. GOSSARD/McCREADY, PEARL JAM

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GRUNGE GUITARISTS

1. JERRY CANTRELL, ALICE IN CHAINS
2. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
3. STONE GOSSARD, PEARL JAM
4. KIM THAYIL, SOUNDGARDEN
5. DEAN DELEO, STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
6. MIKE McCREADY, PEARL JAM
7. NEIL YOUNG
8. PETER KLETT, CANDLEBOX
9. DAVE GROHL, FOO FIGHTERS
10. TIMOTHY JEROME, MUDHONEY

ALL-TIME TO 10 MOST INNOVATIVE GUITARISTS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
3. SLASH, G N' R/ VELVET REVOLVER
4. TOM MORELLO, RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE/AUDIOSLAVE
5. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE/RAINBOW
6. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY
7. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
8. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
9. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
10. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC

ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL GUITARISTS

1. KERRY KING, SLAYER
2. KIRK HAMMETT, METALLICA
3. DAVE MUSTAINE, MEGADETH
4. SCOTT IAN, ANTHRAX
5. JEFF HANNEMAN, SLAYER
6. RICK HONOLT, EXODUS
8. JOHN CHRIST, DANZIG
9. ALEX SKOLNIK, TESTAMENT
10. DINO CEZARES, FEAR FACTORY

ALL-TIME TOP 10 STRAT MASTERS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. JEFF BECK
3. STEVIE RAY VAUGHN
4. ROBIN TROWER
5. ERIC CLAPTON
6. RITCHIE BLACKMORE
7. FRANK MARINO
8. GARY MOORE
9. KURT COBAIN
10. VITO BRATTA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS OF THE '60S

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. ERIC CLAPTON, CREAM
3. JEFF BECK, YARDBIRDS/ JEFF BECK GROUP
4. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
5. PETE TOWNSHEND, THE WHO
6. KEITH RICHARDS, ROLLING STONES
7. LESLIE WEST, MOUNTAIN
8. ROBERT FRIPP, KING CRIMSON
9. BUCK DHARMA, BLUE OYSTER CULT
10. GLEN BUXTON, ALICE COOPER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS OF THE '70s

1. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
2. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE
3. JOE PERRY, AEROSMITH
4. ROBIN TROWER
5. MICHAEL SCHENKER, UFO
6. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
7. BRIAN MAY, QUEEN
8. ULI ROTH, SCORPIONS
9. ACE FREHLEY, KISS
10. TED NUGENT

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS OF THE '80s

1. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
2. SLASH, GUNS N' ROSES
3. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
4. GEORGE LYNCH, DOKKEN
5. JAKE E. LEE, OZZY OSBOURNE
6. JOHN SYKES, WHITESNAKE
7. REB BEACH, WINGER
8. VITO BRATTA, WHITE LION
9. NUNO BETTENCOURT, EXTREME
10. VERNON REID, LIVING COLOUR

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITARISTS OF THE '90s

1. KIRK HAMMETT, METALLICA
2. TOM MORELLO, RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
3. ZAKK WYLDE, OZZY OSBOURNE
4. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
5. JIM MARTIN, FAITH NO MORE
6. DEAN DELEO, STP
7. ADAM JONES, TOOL
8. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
9. DARON MALAKIAN, SYSTEM OF A DOWN
10. KIM THAYIL, SOUNDGARDEN

TOP 10 GUITARISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

1. TOM MORELLO, AUDIOSLAVE
2. SLASH, VELVET REVOLVER
3. DIMEBAG DARRELL, DAMAGEPLAN
4. DAN DONNAGAN, DISTURBED
5. JUSTIN HAWKINS, DARKNESS
6. MUNKY, KORN
7. HEAD, KORN
8. FREDRIK THRODENDAL, MESHUGGAH
9. BRAD DELSON, LINKIN PARK
10. MICK THOMSON, SLIPKNOT

74 HIT PARADER

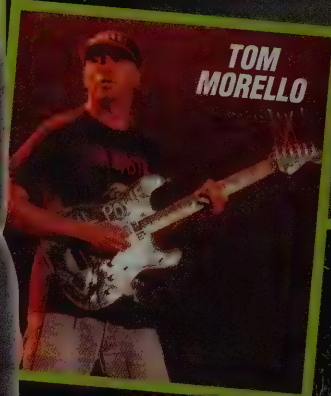


STEVIE RAY VAUGHN

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



JIMMY PAGE



TOM MORELLO

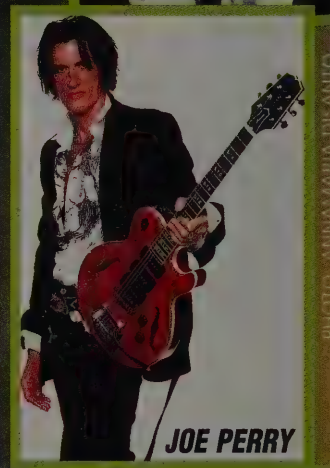
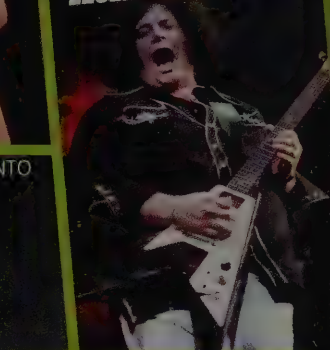
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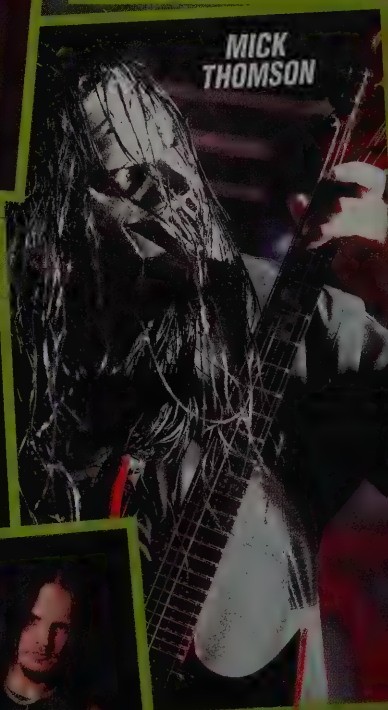
MUNKY

DAN DONNAGAN

LESLIE WEST



JOE PERRY



MICK THOMSON

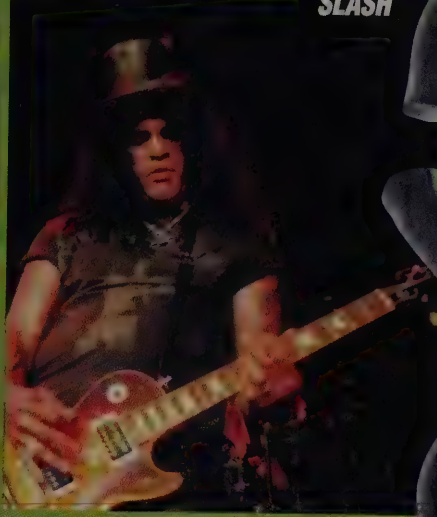
PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



BRIAN MAY



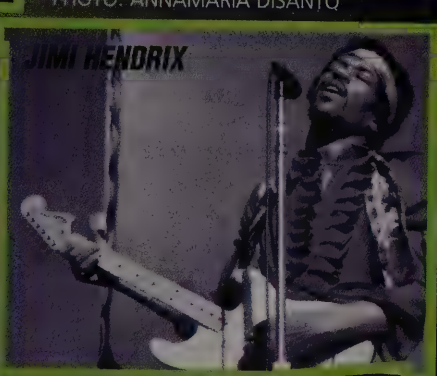
RITCHIE BLACKMORE



SLASH



JOHN PETRUCCI



JIMI HENDRIX



JUDAS PRIEST

ALL-TIME METAL GUITAR SOLOS

1. STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN, JIMMY PAGE
2. SMOKE ON THE WATER, RITCHIE BLACKMORE
3. PARADISE CITY, SLASH
4. WAR PIGS, TONY IOMMI
5. ALL RIGHT NOW, PAUL KOSSOFF
6. DOCTOR, DOCTOR, MICHAEL SCHENKER
7. BULLS ON PARADE, TOM MORELLO
8. BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, BRIAN MAY
9. PURPLE HAZE, JIMI HENDRIX
10. CEMETERY GATES, DIMEBAG DARRELL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SEATTLE-BORN LEFT-HANDED BLACK DUDES WHO PLAYED WHITE GUITARS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. JIMI HENDRIX
3. JIMI HENDRIX
4. JIMI HENDRIX
5. JIMI HENDRIX
6. JIMI HENDRIX
7. JIMI HENDRIX
8. JIMI HENDRIX
9. JIMI HENDRIX
10. JIMI HENDRIX

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SHREDDER KINGS

1. STEVE VAI
2. JOE SATRIANI
3. PAUL GILBERT, MR. BIF
4. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN
6. MARTY FRIEDMAN, MEGADETH
7. TONY MACALPINE
8. VINNIE MOORE
9. STEVE MORSE, DEEP PURPLE
10. JOHN PETRUCCI, DREAM THEATER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 ENGLISH AXE ACES

1. JIMMY PAGE, YARDBIRDS/LED ZEPPELIN
2. RITCHIE BLACKMORE, DEEP PURPLE/RAINBOW
3. JEFF BECK, JEFF BECK GROUP
4. ERIC CLAPTON, CREAM
5. GARY MOORE, THIN LIZZY
6. JOHN SYKES, TYGERS OF PAN TANG, WHITESNAKE, BLUE MURDER
7. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
8. STEVE CLARK, DEF LEPPARD
9. DAVE MURRAY, IRON MAIDEN
10. (TIE) GLENN TIPTON/K.K. DOWNING, JUDAS PRIEST

ALL-TIME TOP 10 DECEASED GUITARISTS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY
3. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
4. KURT COBAIN, NIRVANA
5. STEVE CLARK, DEF LEPPARD
6. HILLEL SLOVAK, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
7. STEVIE RAY VAUGHN
8. TIM KELLY, SLAUGHTER
9. ROBBIN CROSBY, RATT
10. DUANE ALLMAN, ALLMAN BROS.

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST NEGLECTED GUITARISTS

1. MALCOLM YOUNG, AC/DC
2. FAST EDDIE CLARKE, MOTORHEAD
3. VITO BRATTA, WHITE LION
4. ADRIAN SMITH, IRON MAIDEN
5. PHIL COLLEN, DEF LEPPARD
6. DOUG ALDRICH, WHITESNAKE
7. GARY MOORE
8. MICK MARS, MOTLEY CRUE
9. NUNO BETTENCOURT, EXTREME
10. ULI ROTH, SCORPIONS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 NON-AMERICAN/ENGLISH GUITARISTS

1. MICHAEL SCHENKER, GERMANY
2. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN, SWEDEN
3. AKIRA TAKASAKI, JAPAN
4. VIVIAN CAMPBELL, IRELAND
5. ULI ROTH, GERMANY
6. WOLF HOFFMAN, GERMANY
7. ALEX LIFESON, CANADA
8. MATTHIAS JABS, GERMANY
9. FRANK MARINO, CANADA
10. JAN AKKERMAN, HOLLAND

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LIVE GUITAR PERFORMERS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
3. TED NUGENT
4. BRIAN MAY, QUEEN
5. SLASH, G'N'R./VELVET REVOLVER
6. ACE FREHLEY, KISS
7. YNGWIE MALMSTEEN
8. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA
9. STEVE VAI
10. KERRY KING, SLAYER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 UNDER THE RADAR GUITAR STARS

1. JOHN NORUM, EUROPE/DOKKEN
2. FAST EDDIE CLARKE, MOTORHEAD
3. DOUG ALDRICH, WHITESNAKE
4. ULI ROTH, SCORPIONS
5. JASON BECKER, DAVID LEE ROTH
6. ALEX SKOLNIK, TESTAMENT
7. RICHIE KOTZEN, POISON
8. TY TABOR, KINGS X
9. VERNON REID, LIVING COLOUR
10. TRACII GUNS, L.A. GUNS

ALL-TIME TOP 10 NEW-METAL GUITARISTS

1. MARK TREMOTI, CREED
2. MUNKY, KORN
3. KIOCHI FUKUDA, STATIC-X
4. HEAD, KORN
5. BRAD DELSON, LINKIN PARK
6. MARCOS CURIEL, P.O.D.
7. TIM FLUCKY, ADEMA
8. MIKE MUSHOK, STAINED
9. DAN DONEGAN, DISTURBED
10. TONY ROMBOLA, GODSMACK

ALL-TIME TOP 10 SKINNIEST GUITARISTS

1. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY
2. ANGUS YOUNG, AC/DC
3. FRANK HANNON, TESLA
4. JIMI HENDRIX
5. PAUL GILBERT, MR. BIG
6. MICK MARS, MOTLEY CRUE
7. MATTHIAS JABS, SCORPIONS
8. CHRIS DeGARMO, QUEENSRYCHE
9. TRACII GUNS, L.A. GUNS
10. PHIL COLLEN, DEF LEPPARD

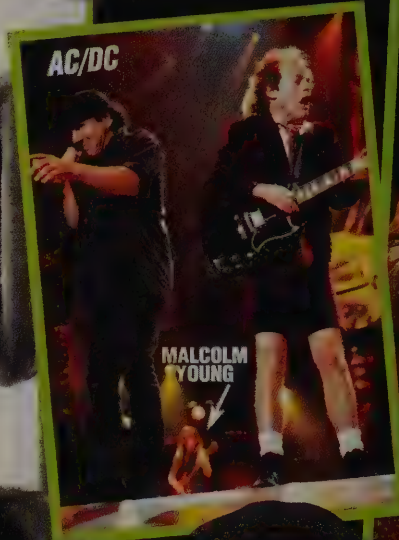


DIMEBAG DARREL

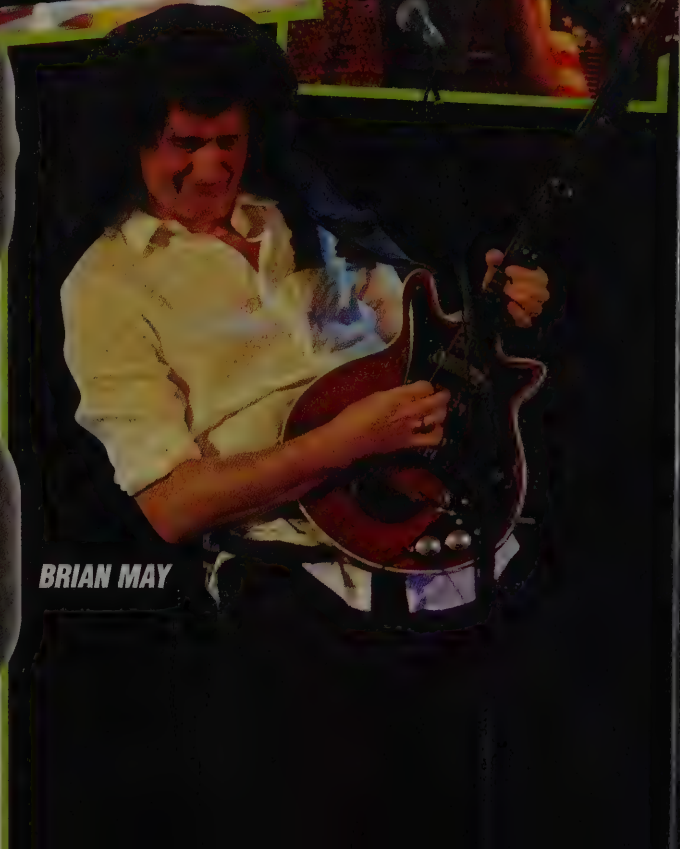
TED NUGENT

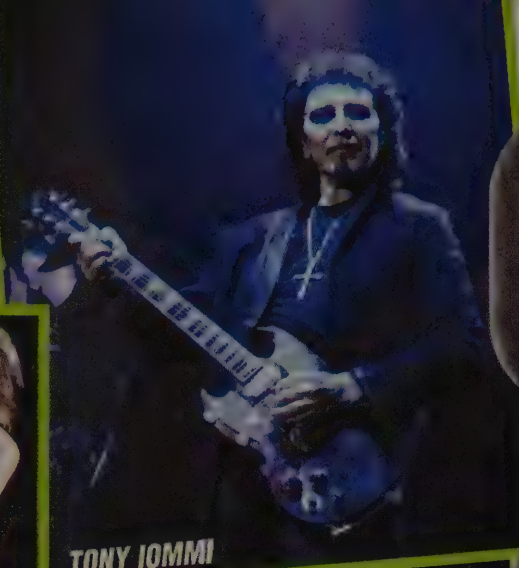


AC/DC

MALCOLM
YOUNG

BRIAN MAY

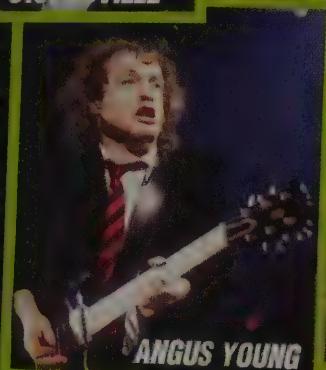




TONY IOMMI



C.C. DEVILLE



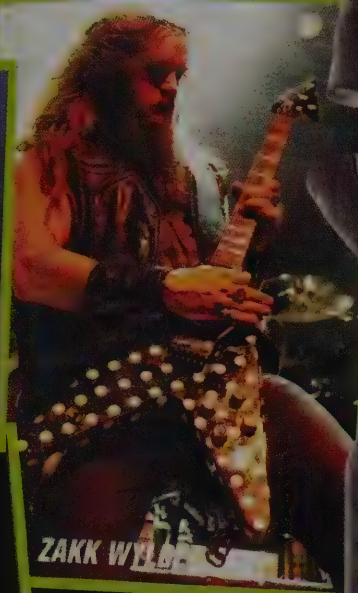
ANGUS YOUNG



BRIAN MAY



VAN HALEN



ZAKK WYLDE



JIMMY PAGE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BLOND GUITARISTS

1. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY
2. C.C. DeVILLE, POISON
3. K.K. DOWNING, JUDAS PRIEST
4. LITA FORD
5. MICHAEL SCHENKER, UFO
6. JEFF HANNEMAN, SLAYER
7. JOHN SYKES, BLUE MURDER
8. ADRIAN VANDENBERG, WHITESNAKE
9. JERRY CANTRELL, ALICE IN CHAINS
10. DAVE MURRAY, IRON MAIDEN

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL GUITARISTS

1. JIMI HENDRIX
2. TONY IOMMI, BLACK SABBATH
3. JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN
4. JAMES HETFIELD, METALLICA
5. EDDIE VAN HALEN, VAN HALEN
6. RANDY RHOADS, OZZY
7. SLASH, GUNS N' ROSES/VELVET REVOLVER
8. LESLIE WEST, MOUNTAIN
9. JEFF BECK
10. DIMEBAG DARRELL, PANTERA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 OZZY-AFFILIATED GUITARISTS

1. RANDY RHOADS
2. TONY IOMMI
3. JAKE E. LEE
4. ZAKK WYLDE
5. BRAD GILLIS
6. BERNIE TORME
7. GARY MOORE
8. STEVE VAI
9. LESLIE WEST
10. JERRY CANTRELL

ALL-TIME TOP 10 GUITAR RIFFS

1. HIGHWAY TO HELL, AC/DC
2. SMOKE ON THE WATER, DEEP PURPLE
3. CAT SCRATCH FEVER, TED NUGENT
4. ROCK YOU LIKE A HURRICANE, SCORPIONS
5. WHOLE LOTTA LOVE, LED ZEPPELIN
6. IRON MAN, BLACK SABBATH
7. UNCHAINED, VAN HALEN
8. LIVING AFTER MIDNIGHT, JUDAS PRIEST
9. ENTER SANDMAN, METALLICA
10. CRAZY TRAIN, OZZY OSBOURNE

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST DISTINCTIVE GUITARS

1. WHITE STRATOCASTER, JIMI HENDRIX
2. BLACK/WHITE FLYING V, RUDOLF SCHENKER
3. POLKA DOT JACKSON, RANDY RHOADS
4. RED GIBSON SG, ANGUS YOUNG
5. DOUBLE-NECK GIBSON, JIMMY PAGE
6. CROSS-HATCH PATTERN, EDDIE VAN HALEN
7. HOME-MADE MODEL, BRIAN MAY
8. CLEAR DAN ELECTRO, LESLIE WEST
9. SUBURST LES PAUL, SLASH
10. CUT-OUT HANDLE, STEVE VAI

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LIVE PERFORMERS

1. FREDDIE MERCURY
2. ROBERT PLANT
3. ROB ZOMBIE
4. OZZY OSBOURNE
5. ROGER DALTRY
6. PAUL STANLEY
7. ANTHONY KEIDIS
8. DEE SNIDER
9. AXI ROSE
10. DAVID LEE ROTH

ALL-TIME TOP-10 NEW METAL VOCALISTS

1. JONATHAN DAVIS
2. DAVID DRAIMAN
3. CHESTER BENNINGTON
4. LAJON WITHERSPOON
5. AARON LEWIS
6. SPIDER ONE
7. MARK CHAVEZ
8. SULLY ERNA
9. WES SCANTLIN
10. SCOOTER WARD

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST MYSTERIOUS VOCALISTS

1. AXI ROSE
2. KURT COBAIN
3. TRENT REZNOR
4. ROBERT PLANT
5. KING DIAMOND
6. MAYNARD JAMES KEENAN
7. SERJ TANKIAN
8. SYD BARRETT
9. LAYNE STALEY
10. JOEY BELLADONNA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL VOCALISTS

1. OZZY OSBOURNE
2. ROBERT PLANT
3. MICK JAGGER
4. ROB HALFORD
5. TOM ARAYA
6. PAUL RODGERS
7. CHRIS CORNELL
8. STEVEN TYLER
9. KURT COBAIN
10. FREDDIE MERCURY

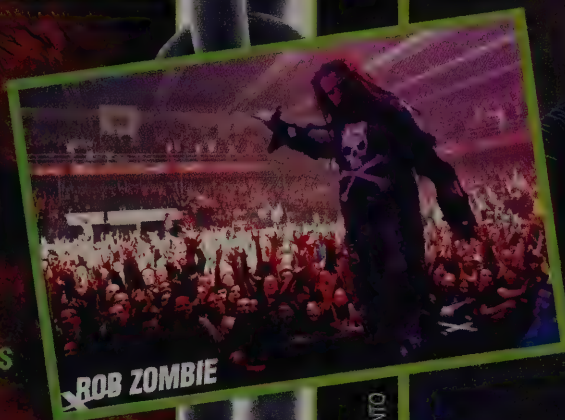
ALL-TIME TOP 10 SABBATH- AFFILIATED VOCALISTS

1. OZZY OSBOURNE
2. RONNIE JAMES DIO
3. TONY MARTIN
4. RAY GILLEN
5. IAN GILLAN
6. GLENN HUGHES
7. DAVID DONATO
8. ROB HALFORD
9. JEFF FENHOLT
10. JOE LYNN TURNER

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST DISTINCTIVE VOCALISTS

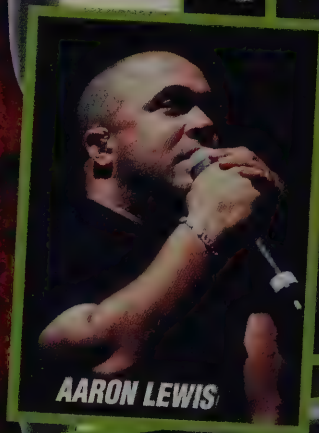
1. LEMMY
2. GEDDY LEE
3. ROBERT PLANT
4. OZZY OSBOURNE
5. STEVEN TYLER
6. BRUCE DICKINSON
7. LAYNE STALEY
8. ROB HALFORD
9. KLAUS MEINE
10. DAVID LEE ROTH

78 HIT PARADER



ROB ZOMBIE

PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



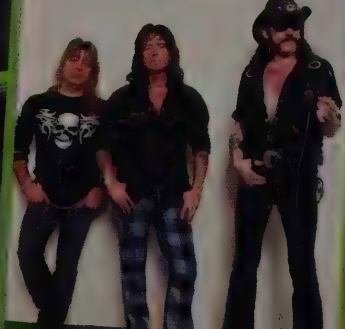
AARON LEWIS

JONATHAN DAVIS

OZZY



MOTORHEAD



ROB
HALFORD



PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



KISS

LED ZEPPELIN



SLAYER

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



AC/DC

PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO



DEF LEPPARD



BLACK SABBATH

ALL-TIME TOP 10 LIVE ALBUMS

1. KISS, *ALIVE*
2. THE WHO, *LIVE AT LEEDS*
3. JIMI HENDRIX, *IN THE WEST*
4. LED ZEPPELIN, *HOW THE WEST WAS WON*
5. AC/DC, *LIVE*
6. JUDAS PRIEST, *UNLEASHED IN THE EAST*
7. METALLICA, *S&M*
8. DEEP PURPLE, *MADE IN JAPAN*
9. BLACK SABBATH, *REUNION*
10. SLIPKNOT, *9.0 LIVE*

ALL-TIME TO 10 LOUDEST BANDS

1. MOTORHEAD
2. DEEP PURPLE
3. BLACK SABBATH
4. MEGADETH
5. IRON MAIDEN
6. AC/DC
7. JUDAS PRIEST
8. MANOWAR
9. SLAYER
10. METALLICA

ALL-TIME TOP 10 POWER METAL DISCS

1. SLAYER, *REIGN IN BLOOD*
2. MEGADETH, *PEACE SELLS... BUT WHO'S BUYING*
3. TESTAMENT, *THE LEGACY*
4. ANTHRAX, *STATE OF EUPHORIA*
5. METALLICA, *RIDE THE LIGHTNING*
6. SLAYER, *HELL AWAITS*
7. MORBID ANGEL, *BLESSED ARE THE SICK*
8. VENOM, *BLACK METAL*
9. KREATOR, *PLEASURE TO KILL*
10. CANNIBAL CORPSE, *THE BLEEDING*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BEST SELLING METAL ALBUMS

1. AC/DC, *BACK IN BLACK*
2. DEF LEPPARD, *PYROMANIA*
3. METALLICA, *METALLICA*
4. LED ZEPPELIN, *IV*
5. GUNS N' ROSES, *APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION*
6. AEROSMITH, *ROCKS*
7. VAN HALEN, *VAN HALEN*
8. BON JOVI, *SLIPPERY WHEN WET*
9. WHITESNAKE, *SLIDE IT IN*
10. PEARL JAM, *TEN*

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MOST INFLUENTIAL METAL ALBUMS

1. BLACK SABBATH, *MASTER OF REALITY*
2. VAN HALEN, *VAN HALEN*
3. LED ZEPPELIN, *LED ZEPPELIN*
4. KISS, *ALIVE*
5. METALLICA, *METALLICA*
6. MOTLEY CRUE, *TOO FAST FOR LOVE*
7. NIRVANA, *NEVERMIND*
8. IRON MAIDEN, *NUMBER OF THE BEAST*
9. DEEP PURPLE, *IN ROCK*
10. AEROSMITH, *ROCKS*



"Finland in winter is very dark and very bleak—the perfect atmosphere for our music."

Ville Valo seems convinced that H.I.M.'s new album, **Venus Doom**, is the disc that will finally propel this Finnish dark-metal unit to their rightful position within the hard rock hierarchy. Why is the charismatic Mr. Valo feeling so optimistic? Well, the band's previous effort, 2005's **Dark Light**, sold over 500,000 copies, cementing the notion in the minds of many that after a decade of trying, this highly eclectic and ever-unpredictable unit featuring vocalist Valo, guitarist Linde, bassist Mige, drummer Gas and keyboardist Burton, had at last managed to establish a solid foothold on American shores. Still, Valo knows that the quixotic state of the current hard rock world doesn't necessarily mean that those who rallied to your cause at one point-in-time will remain loyal at another. So while Valo remains confident about his band's chances of scoring BIG with the darkly sinister sounds contained on **Venus Doom**, there are still those annoying moments of doubt that occasionally tug at his brain synapses. But the lanky singer doesn't let those nagging thoughts get in his way. He realizes that they're just part of his Scandinavian nature.

H.I.M.

DOOM MERCHANTS

BY P.J. MERKLE

"This is a dark album," he said rather casually. "We recorded it back home in Finland last winter after doing the last one in America, and that helped dictate the direction the music took. Finland in winter is very dark and very bleak—the perfect atmosphere for our music. From the moment we began work, our goal was to just punch you in the face with this music as often and as hard as we could. There are clearly less keyboards on this album. We had pushed the direction we were going as far as we could with **Dark Light**, so when we began work on **Venus Doom** it was very obvious to me that we had to go in a more sparse, heavy and dark direction."

The change in musical direction and focus on **Venus Doom**—which in concept has been loosely based on the hellish sojourn portrayed in the classic tale, *Dante's Inferno*—seems to have worked rather well for H.I.M. Rather than confounding some State-side listeners with the decidedly European flavorings of their attack, this time around the lean, mean sounds created by Valo and his gang have drawn favorable comparisons to classic Zeppelin and Sabbath... and even early Metallica. While the singer questions whether such rock and roll analogies are totally accurate, he does little to diffuse such obviously complimentary commentary.

"I do understand the comparisons," he said. "I think those bands have had an impact on anyone who plays heavy rock. And those influences may be a little more prominent here because the music is more stripped-down and heavy. But we do have that contrast between beautiful melodies and crunching guitars—that is one of the key factors on this album. I can't wait to play this music on-stage because that's where it will really sound the best."

Whether on stage or on disc, there's no question that on **Venus Doom** this highly ambitious unit has pulled out all the stops in their attempt to both expand their sound and broaden their international appeal. On tracks like *Love In Cold Blood*, *The Kiss of Dawn* and the epic, 10-minute-long *Sleepwalking Past Hope*, Valo and his rock and roll stormtroopers have melded instantly memorable melodies with powerful lyrical imagery and a touch of pure metal madness to create one of the year's most diverse collections. And while the style presented by H.I.M. is radically different than just about anything else currently on the international heavy music market, Valo feels confident that the

inherent brilliance of his band's latest work will reach receptive ears on both sides of the Big Pond.

"There are so many different vibes and moods on this album that you really need to listen to it over and over again," Valo said. "You hear different things each time you do that, which is one of the things I believe happens only on special albums. You simply can't absorb everything you hear right away. I do believe that music fans everywhere—especially in America—are ready for this kind of experience."

While it remains to be seen how State-side fans will react to **Venus Doom**, it is clear that this unit is well prepared for just about anything that may now come their way. In fact, H.I.M.'s distinctive brand of music has already made them the most successful hard rock band of all time back in their native land, and one of the best-selling Euro-rock groups of the last decade. While such notions may be a little too obscure for the American music masses, upon listening to H.I.M.'s latest disc, you begin to get a solid feel for what this highly stylized quintet is all about. Throughout their latest studio sojourn H.I.M. utilize their unconventional combination of rock and roll ingredients to propel their musical creations along myriad unpredictable paths. To say the least, it's different. And when it works as planned (which is more often than not), it's as inspiring as anything you've heard in recent years.

"What we do is different from anything else you may be hearing because it isn't afraid to include elements of metal, pop, goth and glam," Valo said. "All those sounds and styles work together. At its best our music connects with you on a very emotional level. There is nothing designed to be superficial here. You may just get off on the heaviness of the guitar riffs, but there are always other elements that draw you further in."

With the band recently completing their work on the most recent version of Linkin Park's *Projekt Revolution* tour, it seems as if H.I.M. are clearly in the midst of the most successful time of their dozen-year career. Valo and his men have come this-close to break-out international acclaim at various times in the past—most notably with 2000's **Razorblade Romance** and 2002's **Deep Shadows and Brilliant Highlights**. But once **Dark Light** opened the proverbial doors for this band's darkly ethereal sound there was clearly to be no stopping H.I.M. from attaining all of their rock and roll dreams. Now with **Venus Doom** proving to be the most commercially successful and artistically acclaimed effort of the group's career, it would appear as if this unit are on a collision course with superstardom.

"Massive success doesn't intimidate us," Valo said. "We've toured with the biggest bands in the world, and we feel we can hold our own with anyone. If you don't believe us, just come to one of our shows and let us prove it to you."

DOWN

TAKE THE "OVER"

BY DAVID VOLKER



Five years. That's 35 years to a dog... and maybe even longer in terms of rock and roll time. In an industry where change happens seemingly overnight, and bands come-and-go in the blink of a proverbial eye, five years is nothing short of a lifetime. Yet, somehow, some way, the members of Down have made a career—and quite a successful one at that—of routinely taking five years between their album releases... and living to tell about it. In fact, the lengthy time between disc appearances has only seemed to add another layer to the mystique that surrounds vocalist Philip Anselmo, guitarist Pepper Keenan, bassist Rex Brown, guitarist Kirk Windstein and drummer Jimmy Bower. But with the release of their long-awaited new disc, **Down III—Over The Under**, this Louisiana-based unit has proven that all the waiting has been well worth the effort. Down are back and they mean some serious heavy metal business. Recently we got together with Keenan to discuss the latest developments in the ever-fascinating world of Down.

Hit Parader: You guys tend to routinely take five years between albums. How long does it take for your chemistry to return after such a long sabbatical?

PK: Believe it or not, it doesn't take long at all. We all stay in touch even when we're not together as a band, and we share so many interests, that when we all get together the magic just happens. It doesn't take any time at all—it just pours out of us naturally, which is what makes Down so special to so many people... including us. But it wasn't our intention to have this album come out five years after our last one. We started working on this music two years ago, but along came hurricane Katrina and that threw all our lives into turmoil for a long, long time.

HP: A lot of the work for this album was done in and around a post-Katrina New Orleans. What was it like working there in that environment?

PK: Actually, we began work on this album *before* Katrina hit, and once it did it just played havoc with everyone's life. We were all separated for a number of months, and obviously the impact that the hurricane had on the entire area also had a major impact on us. We all love the area, and New Orleans in particular, but it was a little strange after the hurricane. In fact, I admit that after a while I had to escape to California just for a change of atmosphere. But the emotional impact that Katrina had on us is what inspired a lot of the music on this album.

HP: Are you ever surprised by the "legend" that has built up around Down over the last decade?

PK: I would say "amazed" is the right word. This band began so secretly—it was almost like it was our private party. Then our first tapes snuck out, and before we knew it there were thousands of fans waiting to hear our music. From there it's just grown over the years. I think our past associations—whether it's Pantera, C.O.C. or whatever—has only added to that feeling that there's something special going on here. Plus, we didn't tour that much in the beginning, so a lot of fans felt that their "secret" was safe. That's begun to change more recently, and we have no problem with more fans joining the party.

HP: What's the story behind the title **Over The Under**?

PK: Believe it or not, they're just words that sounded cool together and kind of summed up where we all are at this time. I wish there was something more mystical that I could tell you. We've come through a lot in both our personal and professional lives over the last few years, we've overcome a lot of stuff that would have pulled a lot of people under. And now we find



ALL PHOTOS: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

ourselves together in Down again— but this time it is different. This isn't a side-project any more. This isn't the band we come to when we're between other projects. This is our band now... the center of our lives. That's a big change.

HP: Is there one song on the album that stands out for you?

PK: Maybe *3 Suns and 1 Star*, which is something Phil wrote about his time in Pantera— with the star being (Dimebag) Darrell. It's a great song, and we use it to kick off the album. But there's so much information on this album— so much emotion, and so much power— that I just love everything we've put into it. This is by-far the best thing we've ever done as a band.

HP: We hear all of you are on health kicks... is that true? That would represent quite a change from the party-hearty lifestyle the band previously enjoyed.

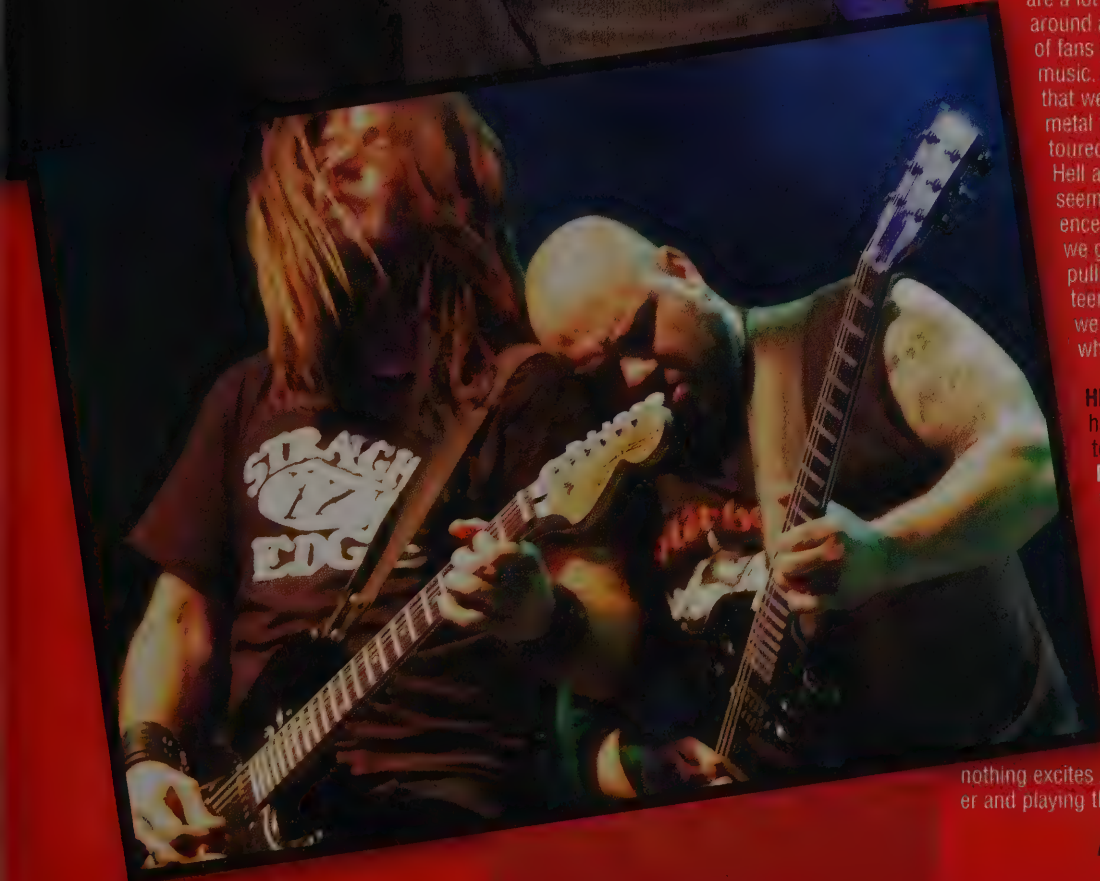
PK: This is a bad day to ask me that because I've got a bit of a hangover, but I'd say that is generally true. Phil has really changed his life around; he works out all the time and is in great shape both physically and mentally. I like to run or bike whenever I can, though I haven't been quite as dedicated as I should be in recent days. But as we've gotten a bit older, we've learned the lesson that we can play better when we feel better.

HP: How does Down fit into the changing face of today's heavy metal scene?

PK: I think we do fit to some extent— at least to the extent that we *want* to fit. There are a lot of good, young bands around and there's a new generation of fans who seem to love heavy music. What's interesting for us is that we seem to appeal to heavy metal fans of all ages. When we toured opening for Heaven And Hell a few months ago, they seemed to draw in an older audience, and they loved us. When we go out on our own, we're pulling in a lot of people in their teens. I think the kind of music we play appeals to everyone who enjoys rockin' out.

HP: So are we all going to have to wait another five years to hear the next Down album?

PK: (Laughing) I think it's a very safe bet that you won't. This is where it's at for us right now. When we finish this Down tour— which may take us a while— we want to stay together and keep writing music. That's a different way of doing things for us, but that's what we really want. At this point in our lives, nothing excites us more than getting together and playing this music.



Judas Priest Predicting The Future

BY LEE TILLINGHAST

Few group names in the metal lexicon can draw a stronger response from fans around the globe than that of Judas Priest. To the eyes and ears of many, this legendary British metal machine has created the ultimate blueprint for what a hard rock band should be... in look, sound and attitude. From their black leather-wearing, Harley-riding stage antics to their overpowering album presentations, even after more than 30 years atop the rock and roll world, in many ways Priest stand as the *ultimate* metal attraction. These days, vocalist Rob Halford, guitarists K.K. Downing and Glenn Tipton, bassist Ian Hill and drummer Scott Travis are putting the finishing touches on *Nostradamus*, a concept disc that may stand as the most ambitious and complex project of Priest's hallowed career. That's certainly saying a lot when you consider that career has already spanned so many chapters of metal history and includes the release of such historic albums as *Screaming For Vengeance*, *British Steel* and their 2005 "reunion" disc, *Angel of Retribution*, on which prodigal son Halford returned to the Priest fold after a dozen-year absence. Recently we sat down with Downing to get the inside word on *Nostradamus*.

Hil Parader: What originally attracted Priest to the idea of making a concept album about Nostradamus—the famous 16th Century French visionary and prophet?

KK Downing: I think we would all agree that he was a fascinating character. Whether or not you embrace the notion that he was a true visionary who was able to predict future events, it's impossible to deny that his work has made a lasting impression on world history. People today still go back to his original readings and try to decipher their meaning and their impact on current events. I don't remember exactly when the idea first came to us to work on an album about Nostradamus, but once we began the project, it seemed to take on a life of its own. It's something we've been working on over the last two years, and it's amazing the amount of time and effort we've put into it. At times it seems as if we've been going non-stop, around the clock.

HP: Would you agree that this is the most ambitious Priest album ever?

KK: It certainly is a different kind of album for us, and it has a degree of complexity which is quite separate from anything else we've ever tried. I think we've done some ambitious songs in the past, but to create an entire 90 minute concept album is certainly a major step beyond anything we've attempted before. The key for us is that while we wanted to present a unified story, we didn't want to sacrifice any of our focus on each individual song, nor did we want to sacrifice any of our traditional metal power.

HP: But at the same time, there are orchestral sections on *Nostradamus*. That is very different for a Priest album.

KK: There's no question that at certain points there is a wider sound spectrum on this album than on anything else we've done. The whole concept almost demanded that a few classical elements be included. But classical orchestration can be very heavy when done the right way. In a certain sense, classical elements play very well within a metal context. But no one should fear that we've sacrificed any of the traditional Priest ideals in order to create this album. Each of these songs stand on their own merit—and many are among the best and heaviest we've ever done.

HP: A lot of talk has been that this project has been more the brainchild of you and Glenn Tipton than anyone else. Has Rob Halford been totally on board for this?

KK: Absolutely. Rob is as excited as any of us about what we're doing,

and he's been incredibly motivated with lyrics and his singing. It happens that Glenn and I have been very involved with the project from its inception and we've also handled most of the album's production, so that's what some people may have interpreted as us being more in control of things. But that's not the case. This is very much a Priest project with everyone contributing to the very best of their ability.

HP: How different does it feel working with Rob this time than on *Angel of Retribution*, when he had just recently rejoined the band?

KK: You know, we said it at that time, and we can say it again now. The amazing thing was that as soon as Rob came back to Priest it seemed as if he had never left. We'd all sit down to work on an idea and it was instantly like it was 1978 or 1988 all over again—at least in terms of our musical chemistry. It didn't take us long to get back on the same footing a few years ago, and this time I don't think any serious thought was even given to that subject. It's just Judas Priest doing what we do... but this time with a slightly different twist.

HP: It seems as if the heavy metal world has suffered a bit in recent years. Does that concern you?

KK: Heavy metal has always been a style of music that goes in and out of fashion. But it never goes away. We've been around long enough to witness so much in metal history—and thankfully, be part of it. But we've seen the good and the bad... the times when it reached the mainstream to some extent in the '80s, and the times when it was shunned and cast into the background. I think that we're in a transi-

tional period for this kind of music at the moment. The world may be waiting for the next great metal band or the next great metal album to come along. Perhaps our new album can fill that role.

HP: How much of *Nostradamus* do you imagine you'll be playing live during your next tour?

KK: That's such a difficult question to answer right now. At times we think about playing the entire thing, but then we realize doing that is almost impossible. Is it fair for us to play 90 minutes of new music for fans, many of whom may have come to hear us play our best-known songs? I am sure that we'll find a good way of balancing out that equation. I know that we want to present a healthy sampling of this album, yet still give the fans what they want. There are some very interesting ideas floating around at the moment about how we can best do that. All I can say right now is that all of those ideas will certainly reveal themselves over the days and weeks to come.

"It's impossible to deny that Nostradamus' work has made a lasting impression on world history."



HP

JUDAS PRIEST

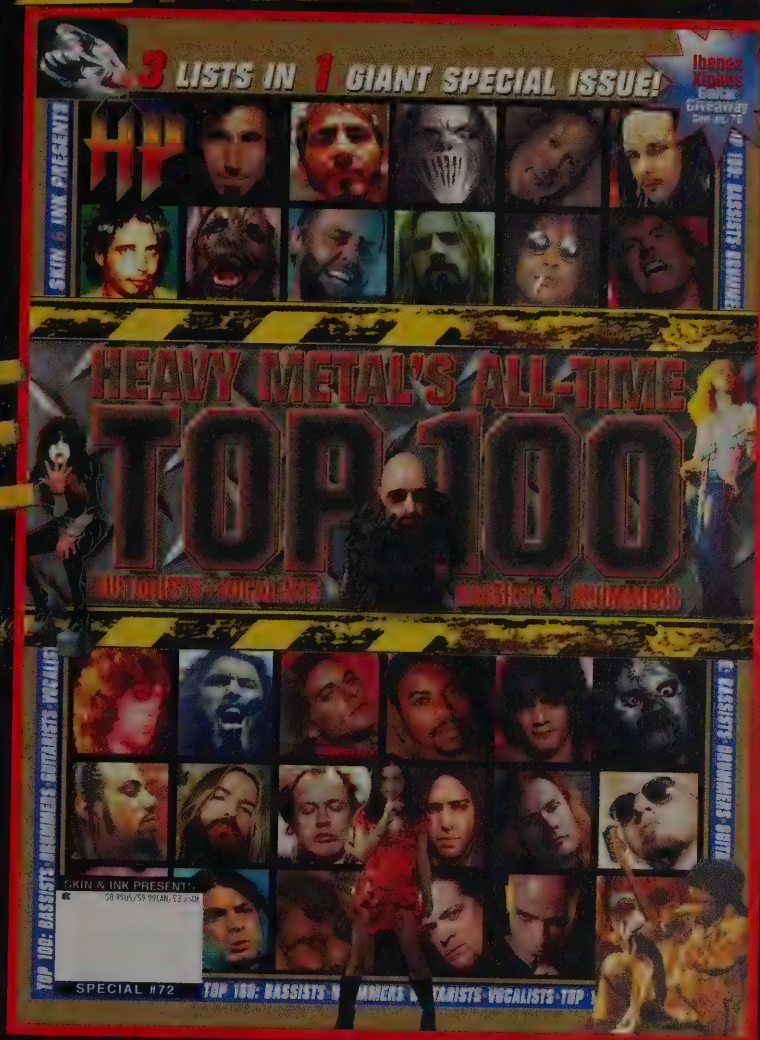
HIT PARADER 85



PHOTO: ANNAMARIA DISANTO

HEAVY METAL'S ALL-TIME TOP 100

GUITARISTS VOCALISTS BASSISTS & DRUMMERS



100 incredible vocalists... 100 hallowed guitarists... 100 legendary bassists & drummers. Where else but in this super-sized, super-spectacular **Hit Parader** collector's edition of **Heavy Metal's All-Time Top 100s** would you be able to find not one... not two... but all **THREE** of our massive compilations in one convenient issue. We scoured our voluminous files, dug deep into our unmatched archives to gather together the insightful tidbits and top-secret information needed to create these in-depth, comprehensive, and dare-we-say-it (yeah, we dare!) **CONTROVERSIAL** lists that have each shaken the hard rock world to its very core. Here, presented together for the very first time, our lists of **Metal's All-Time Top 100 Vocalists, Guitarists and Bassists & Drummers** seem guaranteed to heat up conversations around the office water cooler and keep debates raging until the wee hours in college dorm rooms. Ahh, but don't thank us for all our hard work... we loved every second of it. So sit back and enjoy our initial super-sized **Hit Parader** collector's issue, dedicated to the best that the heavy metal form has ever had to offer.

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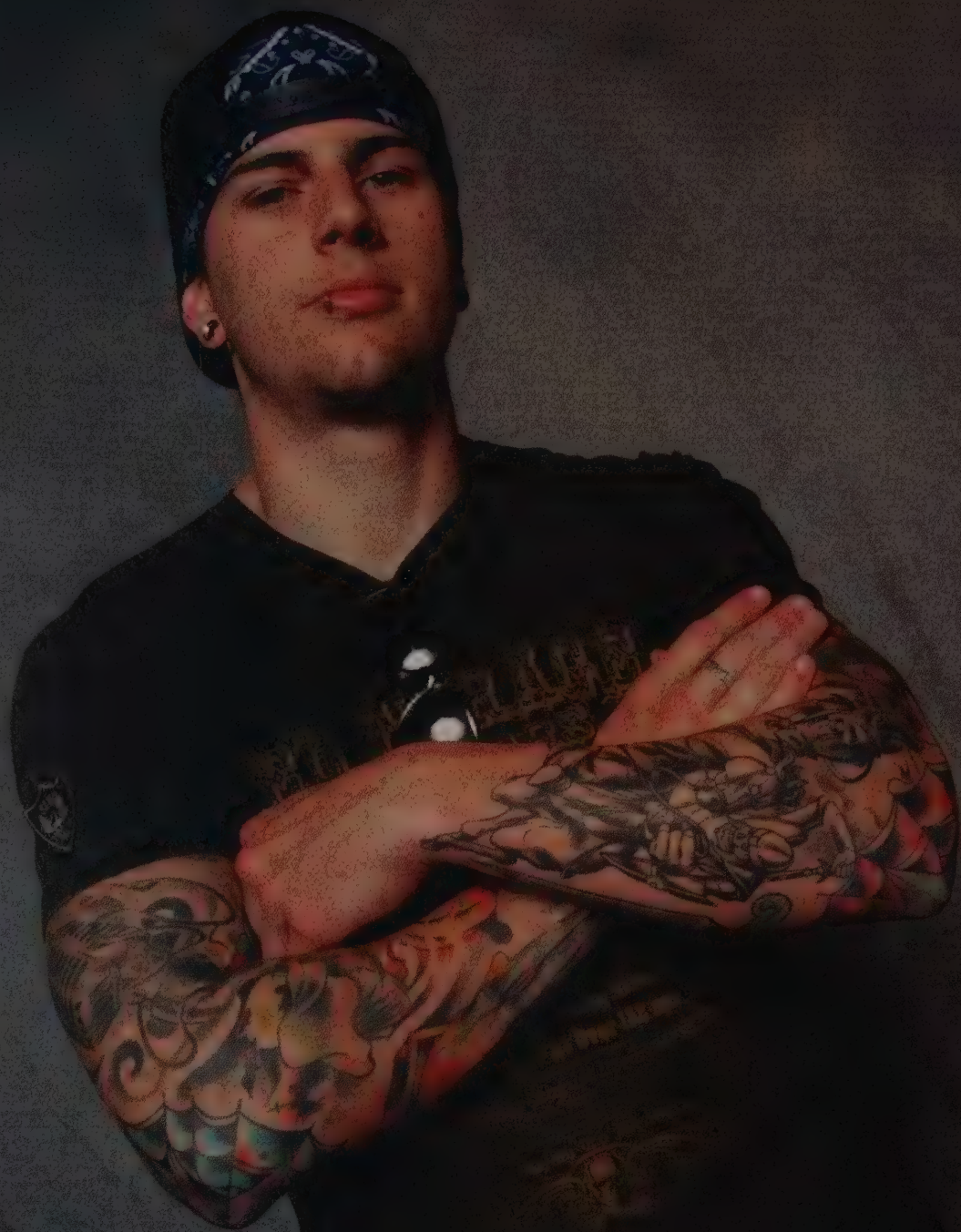
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TOYS IN THE ATTIC

BY FRANK CAFIERO

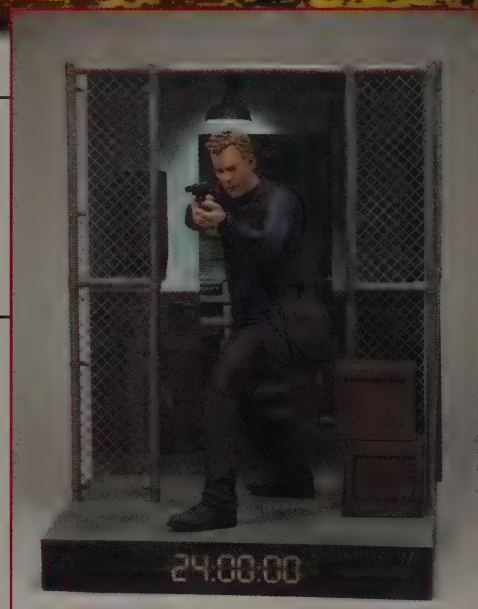
McFARLANE TOYS JACK (24) BAUR

"Without question, **24** is one of TV's biggest cliffhanger programs," says **McFarlane Toys** CEO Todd McFarlane. "Kiefer Sutherland does an amazing job as Jack Bauer, the biggest reason people tune in each season. I know a lot of our fans will be excited to hear about us making figures of one of TV's top action stars."

One of the most ground-breaking, thrilling and acclaimed television dramas, **24** follows twenty-four consecutive hours in the intense life of Jack Bauer, a maverick anti-terrorist agent from the state-of-the-art Counter Terrorist Unit (CTU). Each episode covers one hour of real time and each season's unique storyline unfolds in one heart-stopping day.

Now **McFarlane Toys** has captured Jack Bauer in a super realistic lifelike action figure. With multiple points of articulation you can pose Jack in any dynamic action packed manner you may want. The set comes with an ultra detailed custom base, hand gun and shoulder pack.

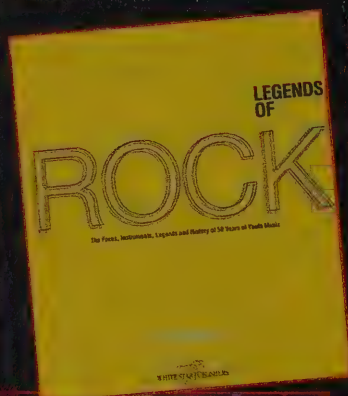
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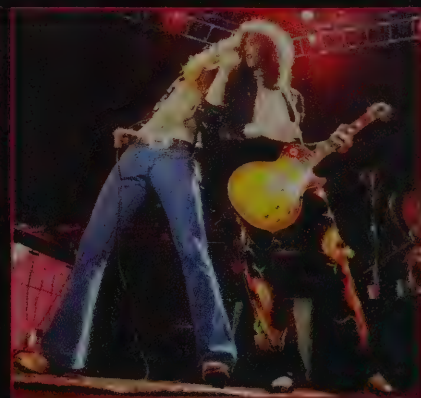
LEGENDS OF ROCK

BY ERNESTO ASSANTE

An illustrated tribute to the most influential musicians in rock history.

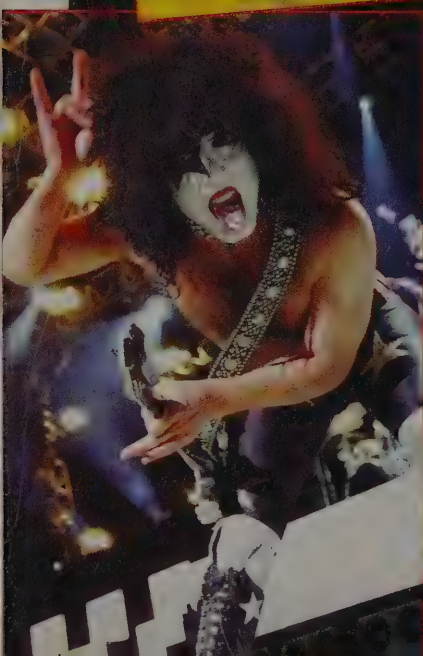


From the origins of rock in the 1950s to the music of contemporary bands such as Coldplay and Green Day, this spectacular celebration of rock & roll traces the history and seminal moments of one of the most controversial, but also one of the most enduring, musical genres. From the Beat movement to punk, and from hippy to grunge, rock has experimented and encouraged a myriad of cultural and social changes. It has described in music the nature of the world and the desires of the young, helping new generations to dream and live, and at the same time producing a culture and an artistic style that has left a permanent mark on society. *Legends of Rock* recounts the history, the cities, the instruments, fashions and personalities that made this music great. This encyclo-



pedic work is arranged chronologically and casts a new light on the personalities of the pioneers of rock: Elvis Presley, the popular ballad-singer Bob Dylan and some of the best-loved classics including the Beatles, Led Zeppelin and The Who. It features punk singers Patti Smith and the Sex Pistols, grunge bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam and other icons including Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Prince, Bruce Springsteen and many others. The book is packed with photographic portraits and live images of many musicians in concert and also shows a multitude of famous album covers, which accompany the exciting story of rock. With its inestimable collection of photographs, a wealth of intriguing anecdotes and hitherto unpublished facts about rock stars, this work is an essential addition to the bookshelf of young-at-heart fifty-year-olds and teenagers alike.

For more info go to www.whitestar.it.



EARTH 2160

Only a few thousand humans managed to escape from Earth before its collapse in 2150. They spent the next few years terra farming on the red planet, developing new technologies and building up new civilizations. Each of the three warring factions "Eurasian Dynasty", "United Civilized States" and "Lunar Corporation" did this independently and separately from each other - but in the year 2160 a strange new civilization awakens and a conspiracy is afoot. You have to choose, join forces or go it alone, survive and thrive or in death you effectively mark the end of the human race.

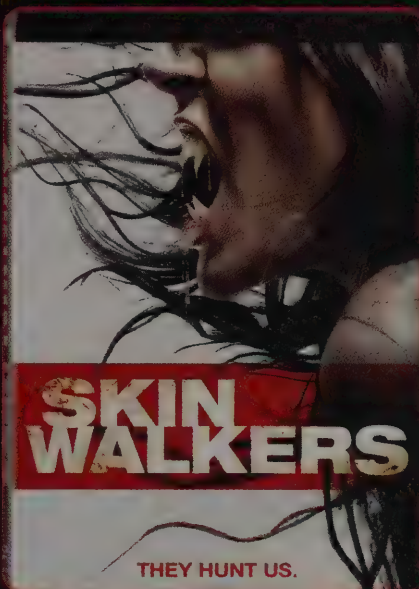
For more info go to www.midway.com.



BLACKSITE: AREA 51

BlackSite: Area 51, developed by Midway Studios Austin, is a next-generation game that will redefine the first person shooter (FPS) genre. While other FPS titles claim to feature "action-packed, highly realistic gameplay," **BlackSite: Area 51** takes next-gen gaming to an all-new level integrating cutting edge technology, game design and story writing to create the ultimate entertainment experience. The player's modern-day emotions and fears are driven into a world charged with grave responsibility affecting lives hanging in the balance and eventually finding himself torn between his professional orders and his own ethical standards. In the end, only the actions of the player and his squad can shape the outcome of **BlackSite: Area 51** during this potentially pivotal moment in history. For more info go to www.midway.com.

HP DVD REVIEWS



SKINWALKERS

*"Even a man who is pure in heart
And says his prayers by night
May become a wolf when the
wolfbane blooms"*

And the Autumn moon is bright."

When a red moon signals the coming of an ancient prophecy a 13 year old boy, half human, half wolf is caught in the middle of two warring werewolf packs—one that kills humans, the other suppresses their animal urges and live peacefully along-side their would-be prey. On the run and with their numbers dwindling, the peaceful werewolves try to stay one step ahead of the predators, while trying to protect the young boy. Time is running out as the maneaters close in on him. Needing to survive just two more days to see the prophecy fulfilled, the protectors fight viciously to protect their savior.

With special effects by Academy Award winner Stan Winston, and written by James Demonaca, Todd Harthan and James Roday,

it's all out lycanthrope action. **Skinwalkers** is an over the top, edge of your seat horror flick with some pretty cool looking werewolves.

DVD special features include: Deleted scenes, A making of **Captivity** featurette, On the set featurette.

For more info got to www.lionsgate.com.

CAPTIVITY

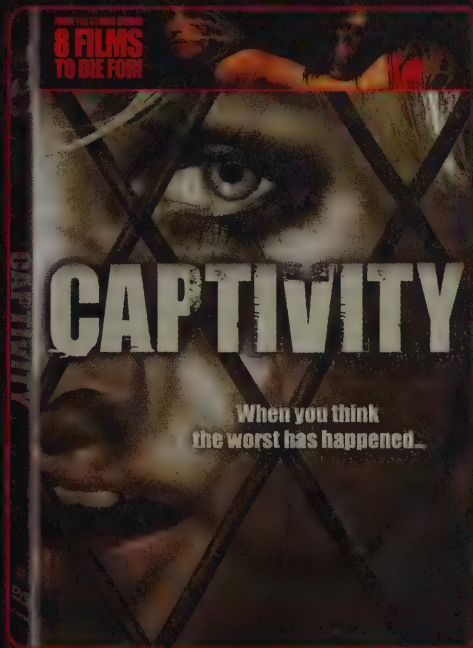
When a top fashion model (24's Elisha Cuthbert) is drugged and kidnapped she unwillingly enters the world of a sadistic psychopath. Held captive in a dank cell, she is subjected to a series of some of the most gruesome, inhuman, brutal torture ever put on film. With no hope of escape and with each session becoming more terrifying, she discovers another victim, but is he there to help or just another participant in these fiendish mind games?

If you're not into werewolves and you like your horror flicks in a more realistic vein, then **Captivity** will more than hold your interest. It's a suspenseful gore fest that delves into the minds of both captive and

captor and will leave you a little paranoid, wondering if you might be next.

DVD special features include: Deleted scenes, Pre-visualization and digital FX comparisons.

For more info got to www.lionsgate.com.



NINE INCH NAILS

It may say 2007 on your calendar, but there's no doubt that **Year Zero** has arrived. And while the release of a new album from Nine Inch Nails *always* qualifies as big news in rock and roll circles, the appearance of NIN's latest masterwork is clearly something special. This concept album, filled with Orwellian "big brother" overtones and *X-Files*-style conspiracy plots, has returned Nine Inch Nails and its main man, Trent Reznor, to the very apex of rock and roll acclaim—a feat that even this multi-talented rock legend has never previously accomplished with quite as much media and public fanfare.

But is the ability of **Year Zero** to make tongues wag from Albany to Anaheim really that surprising? It shouldn't be considering Reznor's amazing ability to analyze, dissect and then disseminate American cultural paranoia, a "trick" he has once again put to-the-test throughout this collection of darkly disturbing odes about a world gone awry. And while some critics have expressed dismay over NIN's continuing fascination with the concepts of alienation and despair, many others still recognize in Reznor one of the great social commentators the rock world has ever produced.

"In the hands of most rock musicians a concept as complex as **Year Zero** would run the risk of coming across as bloated and heavy-handed," said a noted industry insider. "But in Reznor's hands it exudes a power that is unmistakable and unerring in its accuracy."

No question about it, Reznor easily ranks among the most enigmatic forces in the contemporary music world. The simple truth is that no one really knows what we're gonna hear next from Mr. Reznor... or when we're gonna hear it. Years often pass between NIN album releases, and the unit's infrequent tour dates inspire instant calendar circling from any true rock aficionado. Perhaps this lingering cloak of "mystery" that surrounds NIN explains much of the focus that's been placed on the band's new disc, which has already raised eyes due to its apocalyptic message and "concept album" approach. With the release of **Year Zero** it seems as if the often reclusive Reznor has chosen to provide his ever-loyal minions with a darkly disturbing view into his always fascinating musical mind.

"This is obviously a very special album, for Trent," a Reznor confidant said. "It's probably the most ambitious thing he's ever done. But I think this one may also be a little bit darker in its scope. **Year Zero** will only further impact the role Trent and Nine Inch Nails play on the contemporary music scene."

Perhaps it's impossible to fully judge the impact that Reznor and NIN have had upon the rock and roll scene over the last 15 years, but there's no questioning the degree of influence he's exerted on a generation of followers. Whether he desired it or not, in the post-Cobain mid-'90s Reznor emerged as his generation's most potent musical force, and little has changed since. It was at that time that NIN's main man first emerged as the driving force behind an entire branch of the alternative rock family tree. The brilliant but occasionally unpredictable Reznor forged a musical persona so pervasive that his influence touched the artistic souls of just about every performer then inhabiting the rock jungle. From musical descendants such as Marilyn Manson—who enjoyed his greatest success under Reznor's hands-on production efforts—to a generation of bands that blossomed under his all-encompassing musical perspectives, this charismatic, black-haired visionary exploded into being his era's most influential rock and roll guiding light.

Growing up in rural Mercer, Pennsylvania, Reznor always sensed that he never fit in with the small town values that his parents embraced so passionately. While studying piano at the tender age of five, young Trent began to become aware that he possessed a special gift—one that his sports-loving school mates failed to understand. He was encouraged to focus virtually all of his attentions on music, foregoing a variety of social activities that he now admits may have made him "a little more normal." But after practicing for eight hours a day, six days a week for the better part of the next decade, something magical happened—Reznor discovered rock and roll, Kiss in particular, and his life was changed forever.

"When your world has basically consisted of being trained to be a classical pianist by a nun," Reznor said, "the idea of standing on stage breathing fire, spurring blood and playing loud rock and roll was incredibly exciting to me."


Despite his strong inclination to drop everything else and immediately begin pursuing a career as a rock and roll musician, Reznor's life briefly followed a much more predictable path. He continued studying piano, and eventually went off to Allegheny College where he geeked out on computer technology. Soon Reznor began wondering how he could combine his technological knowledge with his love for music. After hearing the instantly forgettable brand of synthesizer-inspired rock of the mid-'80s, he felt he had discovered the answer.

"It was an interesting time, not so much for the music that was being made, but because synthesizers were finally reaching the point that the average musician could afford them," he said. "I went out and got a sequencer that I could attach to my computer, and that opened up a whole new world for me."

It wasn't long before Reznor turned his back on higher education, moved to Cleveland and began working in a local recording studio. During days Reznor would listen to as much music as possible, then late at night, just before the studio would shut down, he'd go in and play around with the equipment, familiarizing himself with as many studio techniques and recording quirks as possible. Reznor soon began to develop his own hard-edged style that incorporated his understanding of technology with his love of rock and roll. It was an exciting time of discovery, a period that laid the foundation for what would soon emerge as Nine Inch Nails.

Though he has always attempted to hide behind the NIN band name (though for all intents and purposes he was, and will always be the entire band), Reznor's sound soon became one of the most recognizable in the rock sphere. And when his break-out disc, **The Downward Spiral** soared past double platinum in 1995, there was no doubt left in *anyone's* mind that this guy was more than a successful rock musician, he was a true musical visionary. Now with the arrival of **Year Zero**, the latest chapter in the ever-fascinating NIN tale is upon us. And while over the years he has remained a mysterious and at times tempestuous force, there can now be no question that Trent Reznor truly has become the voice of his generation.

"This is probably the most ambitious album Trent has ever done."



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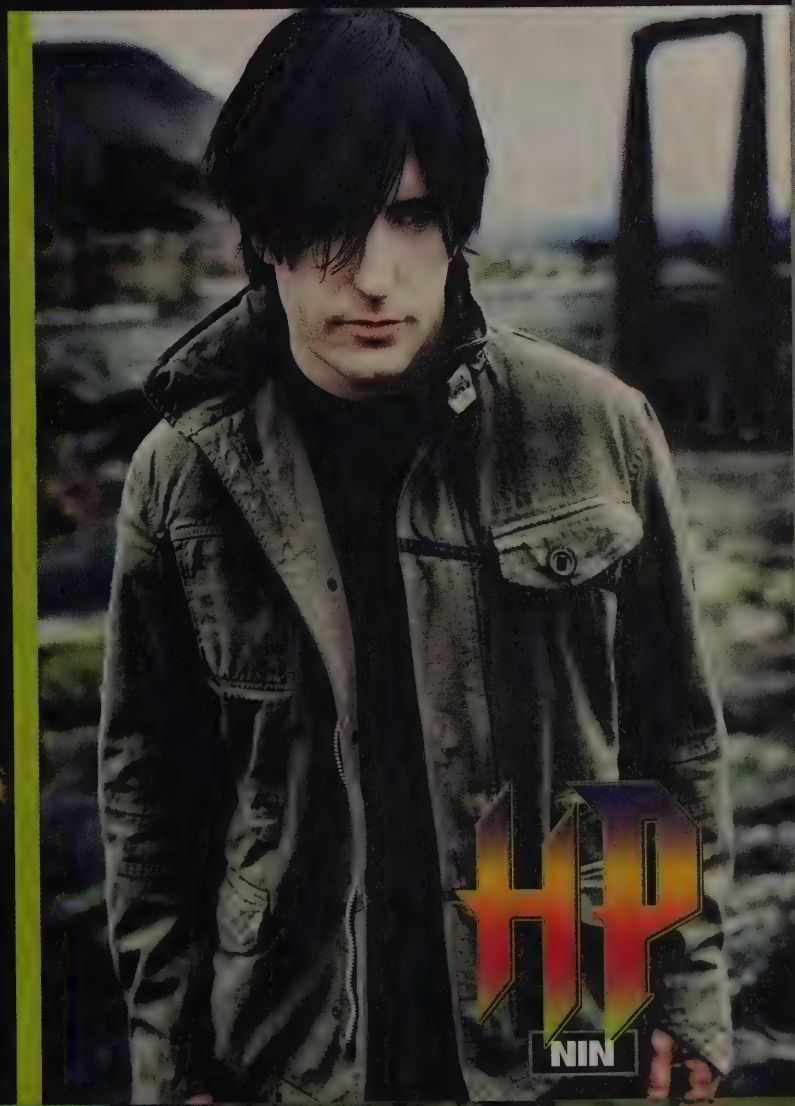
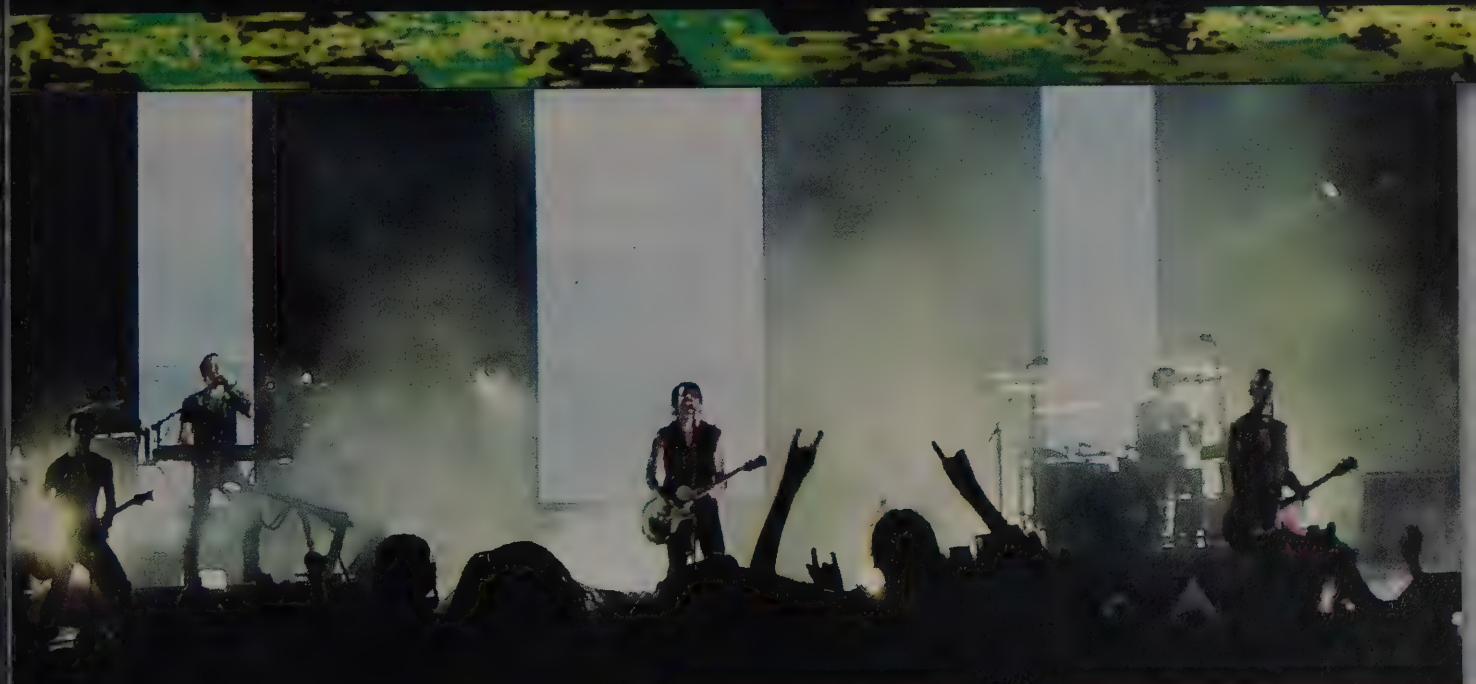
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INSTRUMENTALLY SPEAKING

BY MICHAEL SHORE, COMPILED BY ILKO NECHEV

PEARL

Since most of you readers are young, and hopefully on your way to living out your dreams to become professional musicians, there are few things we're more excited to cover in this space than affordably-priced drum kits from first-rate companies used by your favorite pros. We've covered such sets from Tama, Yamaha, DW and others including Pearl, who are back in the great-deal ring in a big way with two new special Limited Edition kits in their Forum series.

Pearl's new Limited Edition Forum kits come in two color schemes that seem tailor-made for the **Hit Parader** readership: one kit is black-on-black, with shell finish and hardware in the ultimate metal color, and the other is wine red with black hardware (come on, if you're thinking hard 'n' metallic, what color could follow black except red? Stainless steel? Okay maybe...). Otherwise, both kits have powerful-sounding shells made of 6-ply, 7.5 mm poplar wood - a very effective and economical alternative to bright-sounding birch (though depending on batch and construction, poplar

can sometimes have a warmer low-end sound like mahogany).

But here's a key point that sets the Pearl Forums apart from a lot of other "budget" kits: those money-saving poplar shells are constructed with the same renowned SST construction process Pearl uses on

its top-of-the-line Masterworks and Reference drums. That process applies extreme heat and more than 1,000 pounds of pressure to the 6 poplar plies with their precision-cut gapless-seam scarf joints, and Pearl's proprietary Acoustiglue. So these sensibly-priced shells sound a lot richer, in both senses, that they normally would. And that sound is further enhanced by low-mass tuning lugs and mounting brackets that optimize tonality and resonance.

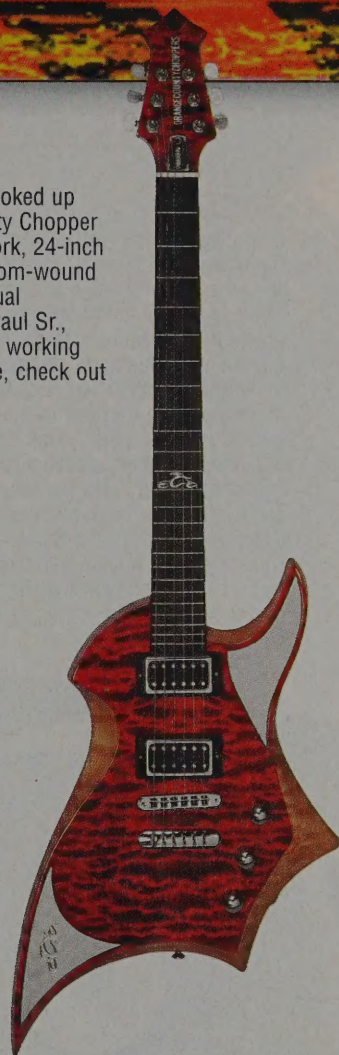
But wait, there's more! The Limited Editions Forum kits come with Pearl's road-ready and road-worthy 70 Series hardware - including heavy-duty SP70 spurs, key-style bass drum rods for more precise tuning, direct-pull HW70 hi-hat stand and two-section B-70W boom cymbal stands that stand tall but also fold compactly for transport. Plus: free cymbals, throne, Vic Firth drumsticks and set-up DVD!

For more on these slick new Forum kits, and Pearl's many other drums and related items, head to www.pearl.com online.



PEAVEY OCC GUITAR

In more Limited Edition news...here's a guitar you can ride — or at least make go “vrooom.” Peavey has hooked up with Orange County Choppers, of TV's *American Chopper* reality show fame, to make the new Orange County Chopper Custom Guitar. The handcrafted OCC has a stunning 5A quilted maple top and OCC-tooled chrome plate work, 24-inch scale mahogany set-in neck with 24 frets on an ebony fretboard, Schaller die-cast machine heads, two custom-wound humbucking pickups, volume/tone/volume control-knob configuration, Tune-o-Matic bridge and patented Dual Compression tailpiece. There's only 100 of these babies, so don't delay. By the way, OCC's Team Teutul - Paul Sr., Paulie and Mikey - also hooked up with Peavey's Custom Shop to design a Peavey chopper complete with a working guitar amp that really cranks! For more on this and Peavey's wide range of guitars, basses, amps and more, check out www.peavey.com online.



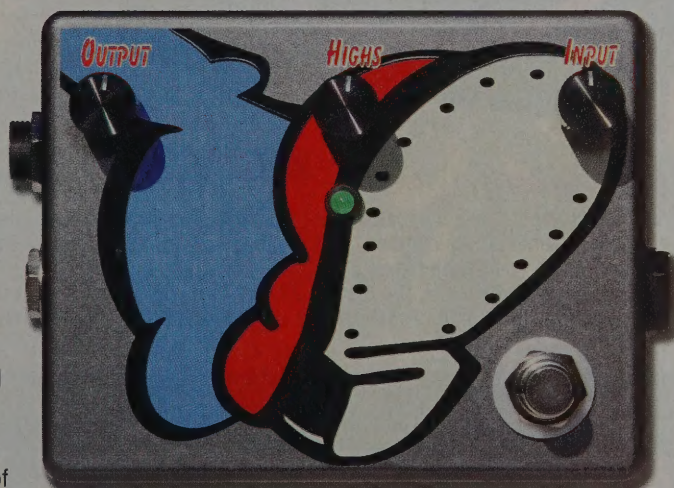
DEAN MARKLEY GEORGE LYNCH STRINGS

Dean Markley has teamed with legendary hard rock guitarist George Lynch (Dokken, Lynch Mob and more) for some new strings with a wonderfully old-school sound. Super-V (as in Vintage) Strings use a special nickel-steel alloy formula and customized core-to-wrap ratios for a string Markley says stands - and vibrates - alone in its vast catalog. Super-V's come in four gauged sets: light (.009-.042), regular (.010-.046), LTHB (.010-.052) and medium (.011-.052). For more info, head to www.deanmarkley.com.



BURRISS BOOSTIER EFFECTS

The Boostier II (no push-up bra jokes!) and Boostiest II effects pedals from Burriss are handmade, just like their beautiful tube amps which we've featured in this space. As their names imply, they are gain pedals that strengthen and enhance your guitar's signal, whether you're playing with clean or dirty tone. The Boostier II is basically a fully adjustable, high-quality clean pre-amp in a pedal that can also be used as a “recovery pre-amp” at the end of your pedal line-up. The recovery pre-amp is especially valuable if, like many guitarists, you put your guitar through a lot of effects: the more pedals you're using, the more your signal strength is degraded. Meanwhile the Boostiest II combines two totally independent gain pedals in one enclosure: a fully adjustable gain pre-amp on the inside, like the Boostier II, and on the output side a very tasty overdrive circuit for the best combo of a bigger clean tone and fatter dirty sound. For more info on these pedals, and Burriss' amps, head online to www.burrissamps.com.



GAMES&GEAR

THE DRUM BEAT

SABIAN

Drum legend Neil Peart of Rush has once again teamed up with his fellow Canadians at Sabian to create one of the most distinctive Chinese cymbals to come down the pike in a while. The 20-inch Paragon Diamondback Chinese is thin and highly response, with an unusually wide flange. You'll notice it has unusually large dimples, part of a sophisticated series of various hammerings and lathings; the jumbo dimples lower its fundamental pitch and give the Diamondback a singular dark tone. But most unusual of all you can see four evenly spaced tambourine-style jingles, held in place by industrial cotter pins. Look very closely and you'll also see four conventional rivets, one each spaced equally between the jingles. The combination of jingles and rivets give the Diamondback a very distinctive, spacey, enhanced-sizzle sound which reminded Peart of a rattle, thus the name Diamondback. Like all Sabian Paragons, the Diamondback is handcrafted from premium Sabian B20 cast bronze while the jingles are of brighter B8 bronze. You can hear the Diamondback's unique sound on the latest Rush album **Snakes and Arrows**, particularly in the song *Mean Monkey Business*. For more info on this and Sabian's many, many other cymbals, visit www.sabian.com online.



PAISTE

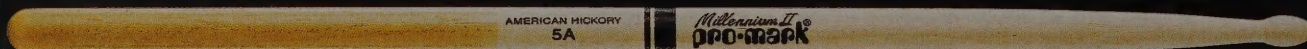
And in more unusual name-drummer cymbal news...Stewart Copeland of The Police, who's been using Paiste cymbals for some three decades now, has finally designed his own Paiste Signature Blue Bell Ride Cymbal, a 22-inch beauty based on Paiste's Signature Dark Metal Ride, but with a striking blue coating on most of the top surface (leaving the bell and edge uncolored) and on all of the bottom side (there's also Copeland's polo-player "Rhythmartist" logo on top). The cymbal is on the heavy side, with a clear glassy ping and a very distinctive, dense bell over a dry, somewhat dark overall tonal wash. Like the Diamondback, not for everyone, but a distinctive beauty for sure. For more on this and

Paiste's wide range of cymbals, gongs etc., check out www.paiste.com online.



PRO-MARK

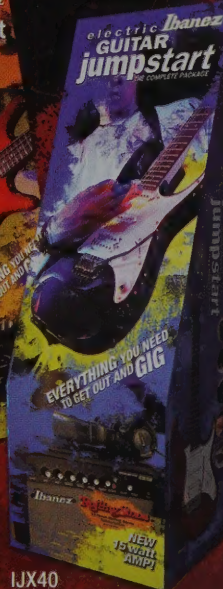
And finally, to hit those cymbals...drumstick giant Pro-Mark has a whole new line of hickory sticks called ProGrip, with a special pre-applied gripping material on the handles. That material is very thin and does not affect the sticks' overall diameter, yet it gives enough difference in texture to help you get and keep a grip in the heaviest, sweatiest going. And ProMark says the gripping material won't rub or peel off. The ProGrip sticks come in 2B, 5A, 5B and 747 models with wood or nylon tips, at suggested retail prices of \$17.590 per wood-tip pair and \$17.95 per nylon-tip pair. Pro-Mark has a dizzying variety of sticks, mallets, brushes and other related items, which you can see for yourself at www.promark.com.



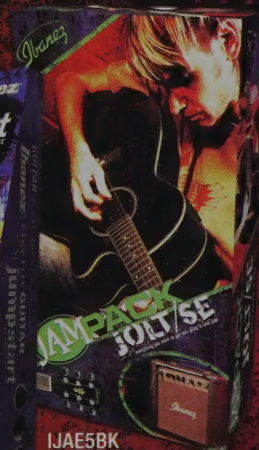
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